

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of:

ELECTRONIC SOUTHERN WATER) CASE NO.
& SEWER DISTRICT METER) 2020-121
REPLACEMENT SURCHARGE MONITORING)

**SOUTHERN'S Response to PSC's Seventh Request for Information
To Southern Water & Sewer District**

1. Refer to Southern District's Annual Progress Report for the period April 1, 2021, through April 1, 2022, and Exhibit 1. For the ultra-sonic master meters chosen by Southern District, provide the following information and documentation from the manufacturer:
 - a. Manufacturer, product name, and model number;
 - a. ANSWER: "Teck-Clamp 1200A" Ultra sonic clamp on flow meter. See attached Exhibits A, B and C.

* Answer provided by Austin Starkey with the vendor, "WasCon"
 - b. Expected useful life;
 - a. ANSWER: Greater than 10 years, dependent upon environment.

*Answer provided by Austin Starkey with the vendor

c. An explanation of whether this master meter is intended by the manufacturer to be used long-term, or whether it is intended for more short-term use;

a. The master meter is intended for long term use. Design has no moving parts and is ideal for long term use.

* Answer provided by Austin Starkey with the vendor

d. Any studies or other information concerning of the effectiveness of this master meter when used in potable water distribution systems;

a. See attached Exhibits A, B and C.

*Answer provided by Austin Starkey

e. Cost; and

a. ANSWER: Ultra-Sonic meters are less expensive than mechanical meters to purchase and to maintain due to fact that it does not require as many accessories and doesn't have to be bolted into a permanent location.

See attached Exhibit D.

*Answer provided by Randy Conley and Austin Starkey

f. Whether the solar battery requires back-up, and if so, state how Southern District plans to provide this back-up.

a. ANSWER: Solar is the primary source of energy and is used to charge the back-up battery.

*Answer provided by Randy Conley.

2. Refer to Southern District's Construction Plan which was filed with the Commission on June 24, 2021, provide the useful life of the mechanical master meter referenced in this plan.

a. ANSWER: The mechanical meters must be calibrated every year.

Southern decided to use ultra-sonic meters instead of the mechanical meters and thus did not research the useful life of the mechanical meters.

*Answer provided by Randy Conley

3. Refer to the January 2022 and February 2022 Water Loss Reports. Under the heading "Other Water Used" and the category " Other Usage" 2.160 million gallons is listed as " Brush Creek Tank Leak."

a. Confirm that this entry references water lost due to a leak in the

Brush Creek Tank. If this can't be confirmed, provide and explanation for this entry;

ANSWER: Yes. The entry represented water lost due to a leak in the Brush Creek Tank.

*Answer provided by Randy Conley

b. State why this amount is listed as "Other Usage" rather than "Other Loss."

ANSWER: Due to the leak being so abundant we do not need to flush the lines as often in that area. It is self-flushing.

*Answer provided by Randy Conley

c. Explain why the amounts listed for January 2022 and February 2022 are identical.

ANSWER: They are not identical. See attached Exhibit E (Water loss reports for January and February 2022).

*Answer provided by Randy Conley

d. State what efforts Southern District has taken to address the leak in the Brush Creek Tank.

ANSWER: The Brush Creek Tank has been repaired at least one

time in the recent past. After said repair, Southern noticed that the tank was leaking once again. Southern is currently seeking an emergency grant to fund either replacing the tank or undertaking a more permanent repair. Due to the significant cost associated with replacing or permanently repairing the tank, Southern currently can only afford to pay for a temporary patch performed by a SCUBA diving company. Southern has contacted the scuba diving company and they are scheduled to make this temporary repair during the last week of May 2022. Although this repair is not a permanent solution to the tank leak, the SCUBA company will warranty the repair for 24 months. Southern intends on seeking the funds to permanently repair or replace this tank during the two-year warranty period.

*Answer provided by Randy Conley

4. Refer to the Annual Progress Report, unnumbered pages 7-8.
 - a. Provide the total cost of the Estill Bottom waterline replacement project.

a. ANSWER: \$230,502 was the total cost of the waterline replacement project.

*Answer provided by Brenda Powers, formerly with Big Sandy Development District.

b. Provide the amount and source of the emergency grant used to fund the Estill Bottom project.

a. ANSWER: \$248,955. The funding source was ARC.

*Answer provided by Brenda Powers.

c. Provide the total cost of the booster pump station installed in the Toler Creek area.

a. ANSWER: Southern attempted to save as much money as possible in constructing the Toler Creek booster pump station by doing this project in house. See attached Exhibit F.

*Answer provided by Randy Conley

d. State the source of the funds used to cover the cost of the Toler Creek area booster pump station.

a. ANSWER: Southern used their general funds to cover the

cost of the Toler Creek Booster Pump Station.

*Answer provided by Randy Conley

- e. Provide examples of any printed materials used in Southern District's public relations campaign aimed at curbing unaccounted for water loss.

- a. ANSWER: See attached Exhibit G.

- 5. Refer to the Surcharge Reports for January 2022 through March 2022.

Explain the reduction in surcharge collections received in March 2022 compared to January and February 2022, and as compared to all prior months since the Surcharge was approved.

- a. ANSWER: As the PSC is aware, the surcharge fee as well as the water usage and sewer fees are collected from customers every month.

Said customers customarily write one check that includes the charges for usage, meter replacement surcharge, etc. These checks are then deposited by Southern into their general operating account. After these checks are deposited, Southern then transfers the surcharge fees collected into a separate account designated for the meter

replacement surcharge.

During the month of March, the office manager, Paula Burke, did not transfer the surcharge proceeds from the general account into the surcharge account in a timely manner. The amount transferred during the month of March 2022 was short by a total of \$5,927.54.

This amount has since been transferred to the surcharge account.

Please find the attached exhibits showing the transfers from the general account to the surcharge bank account. See Exhibit H.

*Answer provided by Paula Burke.

CERTIFICATION

These responses are true and accurate to the best of preparer's knowledge, information and belief formed after reasonable inquiry.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Steven Bailey
Steven Bailey, JD/MBA
Bailey Law Office, PSC
Counsel for Southern Water & Sewer District
181 E Court St
Prestonsburg, KY 41653
steven@baileylawofficepsc.com
Phone (606) 263-4913