

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of:

ELECTRONIC APPLICATION OF)	
KENTUCKY RURAL WATER)	
ASSOCIATION FOR ACCREDITATION)	CASE NO. 2022-00014
APPROVAL OF A PROPOSED WATER)	
DISTRICT MANAGEMENT TRAINING)	
PROGRAM)	

APPLICATION

Kentucky Rural Water Association (“KRWA”) is applying for an Order from the Kentucky Public Service Commission (“Commission”) accrediting and approving a proposed water district management training program pursuant to KRS 74.020 and 807 KAR 5:070.

In support of their application, KRWA states:

1. KRWA is a non-profit corporation incorporated in the Commonwealth of Kentucky pursuant to KRS Chapter 273 on March 19, 1979 and is currently in good standing.
2. KRWA’s mailing address is 1151 Old Porter Pike, Bowling Green, Kentucky 42103. Email address is: j.cole@krwa.org.
3. KRWA was organized to foster professionalism in the water and wastewater industry through non-regulatory training, technical assistance programs, and advocacy. Its membership consists of water districts, water associations, municipalities which

serve no more than 25,000 customers, and other similar entities that provide water and wastewater utility services to rural Kentucky.

4. KRWA proposes to sponsor and conduct a water management training program on February 16-17, 2022 at Holiday In University Plaza/Sloan Convention Center, 1021 Wilkinson Trace, Bowling Green, Kentucky. The program is entitled “2022 Management Conference.” A copy of the proposed agenda is attached to this Application at **Exhibit 1**.

5. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this program will be conducted as a hybrid event, with participants offered the option of attending in-person or virtually. There is also the possibility that some or all presenters may present virtually if conditions related to the pandemic continue to worsen. The presenters, all water district commissioners, and staff in attendance at Holiday Inn University Plaza/Sloan Convention Center will abide by all safety protocols and social distancing measures.

6. As reflected in **Exhibit 1**, the proposed training program will include presentations on improving communication with personnel through written Standard Operating Procedures; effectively dealing with the Public Service Commission to ensure positive outcomes for approvals and rulings; protection for underground utility lines and changes brought about by revisions to the Kentucky Underground Facility Protection Act; supply chain problems for securing needed chemicals for utilities and suggestions for avoiding a potential emergency situation; a re-cap of the emergency response actions taken in the wake of the December 11, 2021 tornadoes that struck Kentucky

communities; cyber security threats and strategies to help utilities become more cyber resilient; tools to help expand communication with customers without investing in professional services; the challenge of attracting and retaining qualified staff and the KRWA Apprenticeship Program; GIS technology that allows various types of data to be displayed and analyzed spatially; updates on the PFAS and PFOS family of chemicals and how new regulations will impact water and wastewater utilities; drinking water compliance issues in Kentucky and how our state is working to improve compliance; and changes to the standard allowance for concentrations for chemicals commonly used to formulate lining materials for potable water storage tanks and the impact of the new NSF 600 standard for future projects. The presentations will enhance the attendees' understanding of relevant legal issues involved in the management, operation, and maintenance of water treatment and distribution systems and are calculated to enhance and improve the quality of the management, operation, and maintenance of the attendees' water systems.

7. The proposed training program consists of six hours of instruction each day and should be approved as water management training satisfying the requirements set forth in KRA 74.020(7) to establish a water district commissioner's eligibility for a maximum annual salary of \$6,000. **KRWA is not requesting that the proposed training program be accredited as a program of instruction for newly appointed commissioners.**

8. A biographical statement containing the name and relevant qualifications and credentials for each presenter is attached at **Exhibit 2** of this application.

9. The written materials that each attendee will be provided are attached at **Exhibit 3**. For those attending the training virtually, a link will be provided for participants to download copies of the material. Should any presenter revise or amend his or her presentation prior to the presentation or provide additional written materials to the attendees, KRWA will include a copy of the revised presentation with their sworn statement and report regarding the instruction.

10. KRWA will shortly apply for accreditation of the proposed training program to the Department of Environmental Protection, Division of Compliance Assistance, Operator Certification Program.

11. KRWA has provided notice of this training by electronic mail to water districts, water associations, and municipal utilities that are under Commission jurisdiction as well as representatives of investor-owned utilities, county judge/executives and others that are believed to have an interest in the proposed program's subject matter.

12. KRWA will retain a record of all water district commissioners attending the proposed training program.

13. Upon completion of the proposed training and as directed in by the Commission, KRWA will file a sworn statement with the Commission:

- a. Attesting that the accredited instruction was performed;

b. Describing any changes in the presenters or the proposed program curriculum that occurred after certification; and

c. Containing the name of each attending water district commissioner, his or her water district, and the number of hours that he or she attended.

14. KRWA will include with the sworn statement documentary evidence of the program's certification by certifying authorities and a copy of any written material given to the attendees that has not been previously provided to the Commission.

15. KRWA will admit representatives of the Commission to the proposed training program at no charge to permit such representatives to assess the quality of the program's instruction, monitor the program's compliance with Commission directives, regulations or other requirements, or perform any other supervisory functions that the Commission deems necessary. KRWA will grant access to the online platform to representatives of the Public Service Commission should they choose to view the program virtually.

WHEREFORE, KRWA requests that the Commission approve and accredit the proposed training program entitled "2022 Management Conference."

Dated: January 12, 2022

Respectfully submitted,



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