## COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

## In the Matter of:

ELECTRONIC APPLICATION OF BLUEGRASS WATER UTILITY OPERATING COMPANY, LLC FOR AN ADJUSTMENT OF SEWAGE RATES ) ) ) Case No. 2022-00432

## MOTION OF BLUEGRASS WATER UTILITY OPERATING COMPANY, LLC <u>FOR CONFIDENTIAL TREATMENT</u>

1. Bluegrass Water Utility Operating Company, LLC ("Bluegrass Water") pursuant to 807 KAR 5:001 Section 13 and KRS 61.878, hereby moves the Kentucky Public Service Commission (the "Commission") to grant confidential treatment to certain information (the "Confidential Information") contained in its Responses to the Commission's Fourth Data Requests. In support of this Motion, Bluegrass Water states as follows.

2. As discussed below, the Confidential Information is entitled to confidential treatment based upon KRS 61.878(1)(c)(1). *See* 807 KAR 5:001, Section 13(2)(a)(1).

- 3. Specifically, Bluegrass Water seeks to keep the following information confidential:
  - a. CONFIDENTIAL Exhibit PSC 4-4(e);
  - b. CONFIDENTIAL Exhibit PSC 4-5(a);
  - c. CONFIDENTIAL Exhibit PSC 4-9(a)
  - d. CONFIDENTIAL Exhibit PSC 4-9(c);
  - e. CONFIDENTIAL EXHIBIT PSC 4-14(d)
  - f. CONFIDENTIAL Exhibit PSC 4-19; and
  - g. CONFIDENTIAL Exhibit PSC 4-21.

4. KRS § 61.878(1)(c)(1) protects "records confidentially disclosed to an agency or required by an agency to be disclosed to it, generally recognized as confidential or proprietary, which if openly disclosed would permit an unfair commercial advantage to competitors of the entity that disclosed the records."

5. CONFIDENTIAL Exhibit PSC 4-4(e), CONFIDENTIAL Exhibit PSC 4-5(a), CONFIDENTIAL Exhibit PSC 4-9(c), and CONFIDENTIAL Exhibit PSC 4-19 contain information related to the amounts paid to outside vendors and contractors by CSWR, LLC. The disclosure of this information could place Bluegrass Water and third-party CSWR at a competitive disadvantage as it would disclose the amounts CSWR is willing to pay for certain services and/or products. This could result in higher costs to CSWR, resulting in more costs being allocated to Bluegrass Water. Furthermore, disclosure of this information would undermine competition and Bluegrass Water's ability to create cost savings for its customers. Additionally, the competitors of these service providers would have keen insight into the pricing structure of these vendors as they compete for future business.

6. These effects were recognized in PSC Case No. 2002-00054, in which the Commission granted confidential treatment to bids submitted to Union Light, heat & Power ("ULH&P"). ULH&P argued, and the Commission implicitly accepted, that if the bids it received were publicly disclosed, contractors on future work could use the bids as a benchmark, which would likely lead to the submission of higher bids. *In the Matter of: Application of the Union, Light, Heat and Power Company for Confidential Treatment*, Order, PSC Case No. 2003-00054 (Aug. 4, 2003).

7. Furthermore, CONFIDENTIAL Exhibit PSC 4-19 and a portion of CONFIDENTIAL Exhibit 4-14(d) contain information related to the amounts paid to outside

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vendors and third-parties related to Bluegrass Water's insurance policies and insurance premiums, or information used to obtain insurance policies or from which insurance premiums may be derived. Disclosure of Bluegrass Water's insurance policies and insurance premiums could adversely affect Bluegrass Water's ability to effectively negotiate for insurance policies in the future. *See* KRS 61.878(1)(c)(1).

8. The Commission has previously granted confidential treatment to similar insurance policy information under KRS 61.878(1)(c)(1). *See* Case No. 2014-00396, Sept. 16, 2015 Order (granting confidential treatment to "insurance coverage and premiums" for a period of five years); Case No, 2018-00281, Feb. 3, 2021 Order (granting confidential treatment to "insurance premium rates").

9. CONFIDENTIAL Exhibit PSC 4-9(a) contains information related to the amounts paid to outside vendors and contractors by CSWR, LLC, including insurance costs, portions of which are allocated to Bluegrass Water (unless excluded from the allocation methodology). The portion of CONFIDENTIAL Exhibit PSC 4-9(a) for which Bluegrass Water seeks confidential treatment similar to that information contained in Exhibit OAG 1-6 and PSC 3-18, for which it previously sought confidential treatment in its May 26, 2023 Motion for Confidential Treatment, and June 16, 2023 Motion for Confidential Treatment. Bluegrass Water respectfully incorporates that motion as if fully set forth here. Exhibit OAG 1-6 and Exhibit PSC 3-18 are currently treated confidentially and are not publicly available. *See* 807 KAR 5:001 Section 13(4) ("Pending action by the commission on a motion for confidential treatment or by its executive director on a request for confidential treatment, the material specifically identified shall be accorded confidential treatment."). Disclosing this information could result in higher costs to CSWR, resulting in more costs being allocated to Bluegrass Water.

10. Lastly, CONFIDENTIAL Exhibit PSC 4-21 contains the names of individual employees of Bluegrass Water, some of whom are not members of the "Leadership Team" listed on the Bluegrass Water website (https://www.centralstateswaterresources.com/leadership). Bluegrass Water respectfully requests that the names of those employees, who are not executives, be kept confidential. Bluegrass Water previously moved for confidential treatment on a similar issue, in its April 21, 2023 Motion for Confidential Treatment. Bluegrass Water respectfully incorporates that motion as if fully set forth here. In that motion, Bluegrass Water submitted that the salary and benefits of CSWR's employees "contain[] information of a personal nature where the public disclosure thereof would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy[.]" KRS 61.878(1)(a). Here, Bluegrass Water respectfully submits that it is a "clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy" to disclose the names of non-executive employees. Ultimately, "disclosure would be an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy." In the Matter of: Electronic Application of Duke Energy Kentucky, Inc. for (1) An Adjustment of Electric Rates; (2) Approval of New Tariffs; (3) Approval of Accounting Practices to Establish Regulatory Assets and Liabilities; and (4) All Other Required Approvals and Relief, Case No. 2022-00372, Order (Feb. 10, 2023).

11. The Confidential Information identified above for which Bluegrass Water seeks confidential treatment is not publicly disseminated and public disclosure of this information would harm Bluegrass Water, CSWR and its affiliates, and potentially the public.

12. Accordingly, the Commission should grant confidential treatment to all of CONFIDENTIAL Exhibit PSC 4-4(e), CONFIDENTIAL Exhibit PSC 4-5(a), CONFIDENTIAL Exhibit PSC 4-9(c), CONFIDENTIAL Exhibit PSC 4-19, and portions of CONFIDENTIAL Exhibit PSC 4-9(a), CONFIDENTIAL Exhibit 4-14(d), and CONFIDENTIAL Exhibit PSC 4-21.

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13. The Confidential Information is not publicly available, is not disseminated within Bluegrass Water except to those employees and professionals with a legitimate business need to know and act upon the information, and is not disseminated to others without a legitimate need to know and act upon the information.

14. If the Commission grants the relief sought in this Motion, Bluegrass Water requests that the names and personal identifiers of Bluegrass Water employees contained within CONFIDENTIAL Exhibit PSC 4-21 remain confidential for an indefinite period of time to avoid an unwarranted invasion of the personal privacy of the named employees.

15. If the Commission grants the relief sought in this Motion, Bluegrass Water requests that all other Confidential Information remain confidential for a period of five (5) years from the date of this Motion, at which time the Confidential Information should be sufficiently outdated so that it could not be used to competitively disadvantage Bluegrass Water. 807 KAR 5:001, Section 13(2)(a)(2).

16. Based on the foregoing, the Confidential Information is entitled to confidential protection. If the Commission disagrees, then the Commission should allow Bluegrass Water to request an evidentiary hearing to protect its due process rights and to supply the Commission with a complete record to enable it to reach a decision with regard to this filing. *See Util. Reg. Comm'n v. Ky. Water Serv. Co., Inc.,* 642 S.W.2d 591 (Ky. App. 1982).

17. Pursuant to the Commission's March 24, 2020 Order *In the Matter of: Electronic Emergency Docket Related to the Novel Coronavirus COVID-19*, Case No. 2020-00085 ("Case No. 2020-00085"), one (1) copy of the confidential information highlighted in yellow is being filed with this motion by electronic mail. A copy of those pages, with the Confidential Information

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redacted, is being electronically filed with the Second Supplemental Responses to the Attorney General's First Request for Information.

18. A copy of this motion with the Confidential Information redacted has been served on all parties to this proceeding through the use of electronic filing. *See* 807 KAR 5:001, Section 13(b). A copy of the Confidential Information has been served on all parties to this proceeding through electronic mail.

19. If and to the extent any of the Confidential Information becomes publicly available because it is no longer competitively sensitive, Bluegrass Water will inform the Commission in writing and have its confidential status removed. 807 KAR 5:001 Section 13(10)(b).

WHEREFORE, Bluegrass Water respectfully requests that the Commission classify and protect the Confidential Information as confidential for the period requested above.

This the 27th day of July, 2023.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Edward T. Depp John E. Selent Edward T. Depp **R.** Brooks Herrick Sarah D. Reddick **DINSMORE & SHOHL LLP** 101 South Fifth Street Suite 2500 Louisville, KY 40202 502.540.2300 502.540.2529 (fax) John.selent@dinsmore.com Tip.depp@dinsmore.com Brooks.herrick@dinsmore.com Sarah.reddick@dinsmore.com Counsel to Bluegrass Water Operating Company, LLC

## **Certification**

I hereby certify that a copy of this Motion has been served electronically on all parties of record through the use of the Commission's electronic filing system, and there are currently no parties that the Commission has excused from participation by electronic means. Pursuant to the Commission's July 22, 2021 Order in Case No. 2020-00085, a paper copy of this filing has not been transmitted to the Commission.

<u>/s/ Edward T. Depp</u> Counsel to Bluegrass Water