

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of:

ELECTRONIC APPLICATION OF)	
KENTUCKY RURAL WATER)	
ASSOCIATION FOR ACCREDITATION)	CASE NO. 2023-00023
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 22 at the Sloan Convention Center, 1021 Wilkinson Trace, Bowling Green, Kentucky. The program is entitled "Water Commissioner Training." A copy of the proposed agenda is attached to this Application at **Exhibit 1**.

5. This program will be conducted in-person, with the possibility that some participants or speakers may choose to participate virtually, if the COVID-19 pandemic worsens. All presenters, water district commissioners, and staff in attendance at the 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 the following topics:

a. **Stress in the Workplace.** The impact of workforce stress when fulfilling the daily demands of operating a system, causes of anxiety, how reactions to circumstances can affect the outcome, tools that management can implement to deal with demands placed on employees and improve overall performance in the workplace;

b. **Overview of PFAS Impacts and Removal Technology Solutions.** Public water systems began nationwide sampling for contaminants listed on the fifth Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR 5) on January 1, 2023. What are these chemicals, how are individuals exposed, what are the health effects, the financial

and regulatory responsibility for utilities, the EPA's plan for regulating PFAS chemicals over the next three years, and treatment solutions for the removal of PFAS;

c. **Recent Developments in Utility Regulation.** Recent developments in utility regulatory law, including an overview of recent Kentucky court opinions, Public Service Commission decisions, the revisions to the sales tax laws concerning HB 8 and "residential" exemptions, the rules and regulations concerning borrowing money;

d. **In the Dock: Show Cause Proceedings Before the Public Service Commission.** What processes and procedures should be followed when a PSC-regulated utility is the subject of an investigation, show cause or complaint proceedings, including available defenses, sanctions that can be imposed which may include the utility, members of the governing boards and staff, and measures to undertake to prevent being the subject of an investigation;

e. **Insurance 101.** Will report on the aftermath of the tornadoes and flooding in Kentucky over the past couple of years as it relates to insurance and will address the problem of many utilities being under-insured, why decision-makers should have a better understanding of "insurance language" so as to make them better informed when making decisions on coverage;

f. **Crises Communications for Public Officials.** Facing a crisis whether from a natural disaster or operational challenge, decision-makers responsibilities in such situations, including taking the lead in the emergency, controlling the flow of events, and communicating effectively with the general public.

7. The proposed training program consists of six hours of instruction and should be accredited and approved as water management training satisfying the requirements set forth in KRS 74.020(7) to establish a water district commissioner's eligibility for a maximum annual salary of \$6000. **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 participating in the training virtually, a link will be provided for 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, Kentucky 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 county judge/executives, representatives of investor-owned utilities, 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 by the Commission, KRWA will file a sworn statement:

- 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.

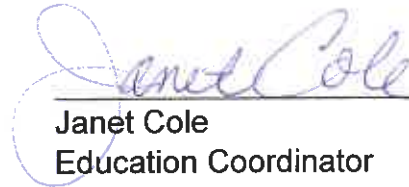
14. KRWA will include with the sworn statement documentary evidence of the program's certification by certifying authorities and a copy of any written material given to the attendees that has not been previously provided to the Commission.

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 "Water Commissioner Training" for six hours of annual water district management training

Dated: January 19, 2023

Respectfully submitted,



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