
ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT

BETWEEN

KENTUCKY RURAL WATER FINANCE CORPORATION

AND

NORTH MERCER WATER DISTRICT

DATED

JUNE 10, 2010

IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,790,000

This document was prepared by:

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By _____

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EXHIBIT A - Debt Service Schedule

ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT

This Assistance Agreement made and entered into as of June 10, 2010 (the "Assistance Agreement") by and between the Kentucky Rural Water Finance Corporation, a non-profit agency and instrumentality of various political subdivisions of the Commonwealth of Kentucky duly organized and existing under the laws of the Commonwealth of Kentucky (the "Issuer") and the North Mercer Water District, P.O. Box 79, Salvisa, Kentucky 40372 (the "Governmental Agency"):

WITNESSETH

WHEREAS, the Issuer has established its Public Projects Flexible Term Program (the "Program") designed to provide financing for the expansion, addition and improvements of public projects for governmental entities under which the Issuer issued its Kentucky Rural Water Finance Corporation Multimodal Public Projects Revenue Bonds (Flexible Term Program), Series 2001, dated April 4, 2001, in the aggregate principal amount of \$46,000,000 (the "Series 2001 Bonds") pursuant to a Trust Indenture dated as of April 4, 2001 (the "Indenture") between the Issuer and Regions Bank, Nashville, Tennessee (as successor in interest to Fifth Third Bank and The Bank of New York Trust Company, N.A.), as trustee (the "Trustee"), the net proceeds of which will be applied for the benefit of such governmental entities by making loans, pursuant to Assistance Agreements; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Indenture, the Issuer has authorized the issuance of the Kentucky Rural Water Finance Corporation Public Projects Refunding Revenue Bonds (Flexible Term Program), Series 2010C (the "Series 2010C Bonds") in the aggregate principal amount of \$7,615,000, pursuant to a Supplemental Trust Indenture No. 38, dated as of June 10, 2010 by and between the Issuer and the Trustee, which Series 2010C Bonds will rank on a parity with the Series 2001 Bonds and the proceeds of which will be used by certain Governmental Agencies to acquire, construct and equip public projects described in various Assistance Agreements by and between the Governmental Agencies and the Issuer; and

WHEREAS, the Governmental Agency has outstanding its (i) North Mercer Water District Waterworks Revenue Bonds of 1992, dated January 27, 1994, in the original authorized principal amount of \$1,231,000 (the "Series 1992 Bonds") and (ii) North Mercer Water District Waterworks Refunding Revenue Bonds, Series 1996, dated January 1, 1996, in the original principal amount of \$1,220,000 (the "Series 1996 Refunding Bonds"), which bonds were issued by the Governmental Agency for the benefit of the Governmental Agency's waterworks system (the "System"); and

WHEREAS, the Governmental Agency has determined that it is necessary and desirable and in the public interest to currently refund the Series 1992 Bonds and the Series 1996 Refunding Bonds, in order to effect substantial debt service savings (the "Project"), and the Issuer has determined that the Project is a project within the meaning of the Act and the Indenture, thereby qualifying for financial assistance from the Issuer; and

WHEREAS, the Governmental Agency has designated the Issuer as its instrumentality and agency; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to this Assistance Agreement the Governmental Agency will proceed with the Project; and

WHEREAS, in and by the Prior Bond Legislation (as hereinafter defined), the right and privilege was reserved by the Governmental Agency under conditions and restrictions set out in said Prior Bond Legislation, of issuing additional bonds from time to time, payable from the income and revenues of the System and ranking on a parity with the Governmental Agency's outstanding Prior Bonds (as hereinafter defined), for the purpose, among other things, of financing the costs of extensions, additions and improvements to the System and refinancing certain outstanding indebtedness, which conditions and restrictions are found to currently exist and prevail so as to permit the issuance of certain proposed additional bonds so as to rank, when issued, on a parity with the outstanding Prior Bonds; and

WHEREAS, it is deemed necessary and advisable for the best interests of the Governmental Agency that it enter into this Assistance Agreement with the Issuer in order to borrow funds (the "Loan") in the amount of \$1,790,000 [the "Obligations"], for the purpose of providing funds for the Project, and to reaffirm the conditions and restrictions under which similar bonds or obligations may be subsequently issued ranking on a parity therewith; and

WHEREAS, under the provisions of Sections 58.010 through 58.140, inclusive, of the Kentucky Revised Statutes, and under the provisions of the Prior Bond Legislation, the Governmental Agency is authorized to enter into this Assistance Agreement and to borrow the Obligations to provide such funds for the purpose aforesaid; and

WHEREAS, the Issuer is willing to cooperate with the Governmental Agency in making available the Loan pursuant to the Act and the Indenture to be applied to the Project upon the conditions hereinafter enumerated and the covenants by the Governmental Agency herein contained; and

WHEREAS, the Issuer and the Governmental Agency have determined to enter into this Assistance Agreement pursuant to the terms of the Act and the Indenture and to set forth their respective duties, rights, covenants, and obligations with respect to the financing of the Project subject to the repayment of the Loan and the Obligations and the interest thereon;

NOW, THEREFORE, FOR AND IN CONSIDERATION OF THE MUTUAL COVENANTS HEREIN SET FORTH, THE LOAN HEREBY EFFECTED AND OTHER GOOD AND VALUABLE CONSIDERATION, THE RECEIPT OF WHICH IS HEREBY ACKNOWLEDGED BY EACH PARTY, THE PARTIES HERETO MUTUALLY COVENANT AND AGREE, EACH WITH THE OTHER AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Definitions. As used in this Assistance Agreement, unless the context requires otherwise:

"*1992 Bond Resolution*" refer to the Resolution authorizing the Series 1992 Bonds, duly adopted by the Governing Body on July 31, 1992.

"*1994 Bond Resolution*" refer to the Resolution authorizing the Series 1994 Bonds, duly adopted by the Governing Body on June 21, 1994.

"*1996 Bond Resolution*" refer to the Resolution authorizing the Series 1996 Bonds, duly adopted by the Governing Body on April 26, 1996.

"*1996 Refunding Bond Resolution*" refer to the Resolution authorizing the Series 1996 Refunding Bonds, duly adopted by the Governing Body on December 28, 1995.

"*2003 Bond Resolution*" refer to the Resolution authorizing the Series 2003 Bonds, duly adopted by the Governing Body on February 12, 2003.

"*Act*" refers to Chapters 58 and 74 of the Kentucky Revised Statutes.

"*Assistance Agreement*" refers to this Assistance Agreement authorizing the Loan and the Obligations.

"*Bond Counsel*" refers to Rubin & Hays, Kentucky Home Trust Building, 450 South Third Street, Louisville, Kentucky 40202, or any other nationally recognized individual or firm in the field of municipal bond law.

"*Bondowner*", "*Owner*", "*Bondholder*" means and contemplates, unless the context otherwise indicates, the registered owner of one or more of the Bonds at the time issued and outstanding hereunder.

"*Bonds*" refers to the Obligations, the Prior Bonds and any additional Parity Bonds.

"*Certified Public Accountants*" refers to an independent Certified Public Accountant or firm of Certified Public Accountants, duly licensed in Kentucky and knowledgeable about the affairs of the System and/or of other Governmental Agency financial matters.

"*Code*" refers to the United States Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, and any regulations issued thereunder.

"*Compliance Group*" refers to the Compliance Group identified and defined in the Indenture.

"*Depreciation Fund*" refers to the North Mercer Water District Depreciation Reserve

Fund created in the Prior Bond Legislation and which Depreciation Fund will continue to be maintained for the benefit of the System.

"*Engineer*" or "*Independent Consulting Engineer*" refers to an Independent Consulting Engineer or firm of Engineers of excellent national reputation or of recognized excellent reputation in Kentucky in the fields of waterworks and sewer engineering.

"*Funds*" refers collectively to the Sinking Fund, the Revenue Fund, the Operation and Maintenance Fund, the Depreciation Fund, and the Governmental Agency Account.

"*Governing Body*" means the Board of Commissioners of the Governmental Agency or such other body as shall be the governing body of said Governmental Agency under the laws of Kentucky at any given time.

"*Governmental Agency*" refers to the North Mercer Water District, P.O. Box 79, Salvisa, Kentucky 40372.

"*Governmental Agency Chief Executive*" refers to the Chairman of the Governmental Agency.

"*Governmental Agency Clerk*" refers to the Secretary of the Governmental Agency.

"*Indenture*" means the Trust Indenture, dated as of April 4, 2001, as originally executed or as it may from time to time be supplemented, modified or amended by any supplemental indenture, including the Supplemental Trust Indenture No. 38, dated June 10, 2010, by and between the Issuer and the Trustee.

"*Interest Payment Date*" shall mean the 1st day of each month, commencing July 1, 2010 and continuing through and including January 1, 2032 or until the Loan has been paid in full.

"*Issuer*" refers to the Kentucky Rural Water Finance Corporation, Bowling Green, Kentucky.

"*KIA Loan*" refers to the loan from the Kentucky Infrastructure Authority to the District, dated April 7, 1993.

"*Obligations*" refers to the Loan authorized by this Assistance Agreement in the principal amount of \$1,790,000, maturing January 1, 2032.

"*Operation and Maintenance Fund*" refers to the North Mercer Water District Operation and Maintenance Fund created and confirmed in the Prior Bond Legislation and which Operation and Maintenance Fund will continue to be maintained for the benefit of the System.

"*Outstanding Bonds*" refers collectively to all outstanding Prior Bonds, the outstanding Obligations and any outstanding Parity Bonds, and does not refer to any bonds that have been defeased.

"*Parity Bonds*" means bonds issued in the future, which will, pursuant to the provisions of this Assistance Agreement, rank on a basis of parity with the Obligations and shall not be deemed to include, nor to prohibit the issuance of, bonds ranking inferior in security to the Obligations.

"*Permitted Investments*" refers to investments of funds on deposit in the various funds created herein and includes:

- (1) direct obligations of the United States of America (including obligations issued or held in book-entry form on the books of the Department of the Treasury of the United States of America) or obligations the timely payment of the principal of and interest on which are fully guaranteed by the United States of America, including instruments evidencing an ownership interest in securities described in this clause (1);
- (2) obligations, debentures, notes or other evidences of indebtedness issued or guaranteed by any of the following:

Federal Home Loan Bank System, Export-Import Bank of the United States, Federal Financing Bank, Federal Land Banks, Government National Mortgage Association, Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation or Federal Housing Administration;
- (3) repurchase agreements (including those of the Trustee or the Bank) fully secured by collateral security described in clause (1) or (2) of this definition, which collateral (a) is held by the Trustee or a third party agent during the term of such repurchase agreement, (b) is not subject to liens or claims of third parties and (c) has a market value (determined at least once every fourteen days) at least equal to the amount so invested;
- (4) certificates of deposit of, or time deposits in, any bank (including the Trustee or the Bank) or savings and loan association (a) the debt obligations of which (or in the case of the principal bank of a bank holding company, the debt obligations of the bank holding company of which) have been rated at least equal to the rating assigned to the Bonds by each Rating Agency then rating the Bonds or (b) which are fully insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or (c) which are secured at all times, in the manner and to the extent provided by law, by collateral security (described in clause (1) or (2) of this definition) of a market value (valued at least quarterly) of no less than the amount of money so invested;

- (5) shares in any investment company registered under the Federal Investment Governmental Agency Act of 1940 whose shares are registered under the Federal Securities Act of 1933 and whose only investments are government securities described in clause (1) or (2) of this definition and repurchase agreements fully secured by government securities described in clause (1) or (2) of this definition and/or other obligations rated AAA by S&P;
- (6) tax-exempt obligations of any state of the United States, or political subdivision thereof, which are rated AA or better by S&P or mutual funds invested only in such obligations;
- (7) units of a taxable or nontaxable government money-market portfolio composed of U.S. Government obligations and repurchase agreements collateralized by such obligations;
- (8) commercial paper rated A-1 or A-1+ by S&P;
- (9) corporate notes or bonds with one year or less to maturity rated in one of the two highest Rating Categories by S&P; or
- (10) shares of mutual funds, each of which shall have the following characteristics:
 - (i) The mutual fund shall be an open-end diversified investment company registered under the Federal Investment company Act of 1940, as amended;
 - (ii) The management company of the investment company shall have been in operation for at least five (5) years; and
 - (iii) All of the securities in the mutual fund shall be in investments in any one or more of the investments described in (1) and (3) above.

"Prior Bond Legislation" refers collectively to the 1994 Bond Resolution, the 1996 Bond Resolution, and the 2003 Bond Resolution.

"Prior Bonds" refers collectively to the Series 1994 Bonds, Series 1996 Bonds and the Series 2003 Bonds.

"Program" refers to the Issuer's Public Projects Flexible Term Program designed to provide financing for the expansion, addition and improvements of public projects for governmental entities.

"Program Administrator" refers to the Kentucky Rural Water Association, Inc., Bowling Green, Kentucky.

"*Program Reserve Fund*" refers to the Reserve Fund created and established pursuant to Section 4.2 of the Indenture.

"*Project*" refers to financing the cost to currently refund the outstanding Series 1992 Bonds and the Series 1996 Refunding Bonds, with the proceeds of the Obligations.

"*Revenue Fund*" refers to the North Mercer Water District Waterworks Revenue Fund created in the Prior Bond Legislation and which Revenue Fund will continue to be maintained for the benefit of the System.

"*Series 1992 Bonds*" refers to the outstanding North Mercer Water District Waterworks Revenue Bonds of 1992, dated January 27, 1994, in the original authorized principal amount of \$1,231,000.

"*Series 1994 Bonds*" refers to the outstanding North Mercer Water District Waterworks Revenue Bonds of 1994, dated February 7, 1995, in the original authorized principal amount of \$439,000.

"*Series 1996 Bonds*" refer to the outstanding North Mercer Water District Waterworks Revenue Bonds, Series 1996, dated January 9, 1997, in the original authorized principal amount of \$443,000.

"*Series 1996 Refunding Bonds*" refers to the outstanding North Mercer Water District Waterworks Refunding Revenue Bonds, Series 1996, dated January 1, 1996, in the original principal amount of \$1,220,000.

"*Series 2003 Bonds*" refers to the outstanding North Mercer Water District Waterworks Revenue Bonds, Series 2003, dated May 12, 2004, in the principal amount of \$1,450,000

"*Sinking Fund*" refers to the North Mercer Water District Waterworks Revenue Bond and Interest Sinking Fund created and confirmed in the Prior Bond Legislation and which Sinking Fund will continue to be maintained for the benefit of the System.

"*System*" refers to the Governmental Agency's waterworks system, together with all future extensions, additions and improvements to said System.

"*Treasurer*" refers to the Treasurer of the Governmental Agency.

"*Trustee*" refers to Regions Bank, Nashville, Tennessee.

"*U.S. Obligations*" refers to bonds, notes, or Treasury Bills, which are direct obligations of the United States of America or obligations fully guaranteed by the United States of America, including book-entry obligations of the United States Treasury-State and Local Government

Series, and Trust Receipts representing an ownership interest in direct obligations of the United States.

Section 2. Reaffirmation of Declaration of Waterworks System. That all proceedings heretofore taken for the establishment of and the supplying of water service in and to said Governmental Agency as a waterworks system are hereby in all respects ratified and confirmed; and so long as any of the Obligations hereinafter authorized or permitted to be issued remain outstanding, said System shall be owned, controlled, operated and maintained for the security and source of payment of the Obligations. Said System is hereby declared to constitute a public project within the meaning and application of Sections 58.010 to 58.140, inclusive, of the Kentucky Revised Statutes.

Section 3. Authorization of Obligations; Place of Payment; Manner of Execution. That pursuant to the Constitution and laws of Kentucky, and particularly said Sections 58.010 through 58.140, inclusive, of the Kentucky Revised Statutes, the Governmental Agency hereby authorizes the borrowing of \$1,790,000 from the Program, for the purpose of providing funds for the Project.

Said Obligations shall mature in such principal amounts, and shall bear interest as set forth in Exhibit A attached hereto.

The principal of, redemption price, if any, and interest on the Obligations shall be payable in lawful money of the United States of America on the Interest Payment Date to the Trustee for the Program. Such payment shall be made by the Governmental Agency from funds on deposit in the Sinking Fund pursuant to the ACH Debit Direct Payment Method (the "ACH Debit Direct Payment Method") as described and detailed in the ACH Debit Direct Payment Authorization Form (the "ACH Authorization Form") in a form as provided by the Trustee to the Governmental Agency. The ACH Authorization Form shall be completed, signed and forwarded to the Trustee prior to the Governmental Agency receiving any of the proceeds of the Loan.

Pursuant to the ACH Debit Direct Payment Method, there shall be transferred to the Trustee on or before each Interest Payment Date, from the Sinking Fund, the amounts set forth as sinking fund payments on Exhibit A attached hereto.

In addition, in the event the Issuer is required to withdraw moneys from the Program Reserve Fund established pursuant to the Indenture to pay the principal of and interest on the Obligations and any other payments due under this Assistance Agreement on behalf of the Governmental Agency (the "Reserve Withdrawal"), the Governmental Agency shall pay to the Trustee, each amount set forth as sinking fund payments on Exhibit A attached hereto, pursuant to the ACH Debit Direct Payment Method an amount equal to at least 1/12 of the Reserve Withdrawal, plus accrued interest thereon at the rate equal to the highest rate of interest paid by the investments making up the Program Reserve Fund until such Reserve Withdrawal has been replenished.

Section 4. Redemption.

(a) *Optional Redemption.* Subject to the prior written approval of the Compliance Group, the Obligations maturing on or after January 1, 2021 are subject to redemption, in whole or in part, by the Governmental Agency prior to their stated maturity, at any time falling on or after January 1, 2020 at a redemption price equal to 100% of the principal amount of the Obligations called for redemption, plus unpaid interest accrued to the date of redemption.

In the event that the Governmental Agency desires to optionally redeem a portion of its Obligations, such redemption shall be in a denomination equal to \$5,000 or any integral multiple thereof.

(b) *Notice of Redemption.* The Governmental Agency shall give the Issuer and the Trustee notice of any redemption by sending at least one such notice by first class United States mail not less than 45 and not more than 90 days prior to the date fixed for redemption.

All of said Obligations as to which the Governmental Agency reserves and exercises the right of redemption and as to which notice as aforesaid shall have been given, and for the retirement of which, upon the terms aforesaid, funds are duly provided, will cease to bear interest on the redemption date.

Section 5. Obligations Payable Out of Revenues on a Parity with Prior Bonds. All of the Obligations and Prior Bonds, together with the interest thereon and such additional bonds ranking on a parity therewith heretofore issued and outstanding and that may be hereafter issued and outstanding from time to time under the conditions and restrictions hereinafter set forth, shall be payable out of the Sinking Fund, as heretofore created in the Prior Bond Legislation and as hereinafter more specifically provided and shall be a valid claim of the holder thereof only against said fund and the fixed portion or amount of the income and revenues of the System of said Governmental Agency pledged to said fund.

Section 6. Compliance with Parity Coverage Requirements of the Prior Bond Legislation. It is hereby declared that in accordance with the provisions of the Prior Bond Legislation, and prior to the issuance of any of the Obligations hereby authorized, there will be procured and filed with the Governmental Agency Clerk of said Governmental Agency any and all statements or certifications for the purpose of having both principal and interest on the Prior Bonds and the Obligations hereby authorized payable on a parity from the income and revenues of said System with said outstanding Prior Bonds.

Section 7. Flow of Funds. All proceedings preliminary to and in connection with the issuance of the Prior Bonds, whereby provision was made for the receipt, custody, and application of the proceeds of the Prior Bonds; for the operation of said System on a revenue-producing basis; for the segregation, allocation, and custody of the revenues derived from the operation of the System; and for the enforcement and payment of the Prior Bonds; and all other covenants for the benefit of the bondholders set out in the Prior Bond Legislation, are hereby

ratified and confirmed and shall continue in force and inure to the security and benefit of the Bonds, the same as if such provisions and proceedings were repeated in full herein; provided, further, that, hereafter, the income and revenues of the System shall be collected, segregated, accounted for, and distributed as follows:

A. Revenue Fund. The Governmental Agency covenants and agrees that it will continue to deposit in the Revenue Fund, promptly as received from time to time, all revenues of the System, as same may be extended and improved from time to time. The moneys in the Revenue Fund shall continue to be used, disbursed and applied by the Governmental Agency only for the purpose and in the manner and order of priorities specified in the Prior Bond Legislation, as hereinafter modified by this Assistance Agreement, all as permitted by the Act, and in accordance with previous contractual commitments.

B. Sinking Fund. It is hereby recognized that the Governmental Agency is obligated upon the issuance of the Obligations to provide for additional debt service requirements of the Obligations.

There shall be transferred from the Revenue Fund and deposited into the Sinking Fund on or before the 20th day of each month, for payment of interest on and principal of the Outstanding Bonds, including the Obligations, a sum equal to the total of the following:

- (1) An amount equal to one-sixth (1/6) of the next succeeding six-month interest payment to become due on the Outstanding Bonds, plus
- (2) A sum equal to one-twelfth (1/12) of the principal of any Outstanding Bonds maturing on the next succeeding principal payment date.

If the Governmental Agency for any reason shall fail to make any monthly deposit as required, then an amount equal to the deficiency shall be set apart and deposited into the Sinking Fund out of the first available revenues in the ensuing months, which amount shall be in addition to the monthly deposit otherwise required during such succeeding months. Whenever there shall accumulate in the Sinking Fund amounts in excess of the requirements during the next twelve months for paying the principal of and interest due on the Outstanding Bonds, as same fall due, such excess may be used for redemption or prepayment of any Outstanding Bonds, subject to the terms and conditions set forth therein, prior to maturity.

C. Depreciation Fund. Pursuant to the provisions of the Prior Bond Legislation, there shall next be transferred from the Revenue Fund a sum sufficient, each month, to maintain a balance in said Depreciation Fund of at least the sum required by the Prior Bond Legislation, which shall be deposited into the Depreciation Fund.

Moneys in the Depreciation Fund may be withdrawn and used by the Governmental Agency, upon appropriate certification of the Governing Body, in accordance with the provisions of the Prior Bond Legislation, for the purpose of paying the cost of unusual

or extraordinary maintenance, repairs, renewals and replacements not included in the annual budget of current expenses and/or of paying the costs of constructing future extensions, additions and improvements to the System which will either enhance its revenue-producing capacity or will provide a higher degree of service, and when necessary, for the purpose of making payments of principal and interest on the Bonds if the amount on deposit in the Sinking Fund is not sufficient to make such payments.

D. Operation and Maintenance Fund. There shall next be transferred monthly from the Revenue Fund and deposited into said Operation and Maintenance Fund, sums sufficient to meet the current expenses of operating and maintaining the System. The balance maintained in said Operation and Maintenance Fund shall not be in excess of the amount required to cover anticipated System expenditures for a two-month period pursuant to the Governmental Agency's annual budget.

E. Surplus Funds. Subject to the provisions for the disposition of the income and revenues of the System as set forth hereinabove, which provisions are cumulative, and after paying or providing for the payment of debt service on any subordinate obligations, there shall be transferred, within sixty days after the end of each fiscal year, the balance of excess funds in the Revenue Fund on such date, to the Depreciation Fund for application in accordance with the terms of this Assistance Agreement or to the Sinking Fund to be applied to the maximum extent feasible, to the prompt purchase or redemption of Outstanding Bonds.

Provided, however, notwithstanding anything to the contrary in any Prior Bond Legislation, the Governmental Agency shall be allowed a credit to the extent of moneys on deposit in the Program Reserve Fund for the purpose of meeting any parity requirements in any Prior Bond Legislation; subject however, to the limitation that moneys in the Program Reserve Fund may only be used to make payments of the Government Agency due under this Assistance Agreement, if necessary, and; provided further, that the Trustee may not seek payment for any reserve funds held by the Governmental Agency under any Prior Bond Legislation for payment of any amounts due from the Governmental Agency under this Assistance Agreement.

Section 8. Disposition of Proceeds of the Obligations; Governmental Agency Account. Upon (i) the execution of this Assistance Agreement, (ii) the delivery of this Assistance Agreement to the Trustee, (iii) certification of the Compliance Group that the Loan is to be accepted in the Program, and (iv) upon receipt by the Governmental Agency of the proceeds of the Obligations, the proceeds shall be applied as follows:

(a) *Disposition of the Proceeds.* There shall first be deducted and paid from the proceeds of the Obligations the fees and costs incurred by the Governmental Agency and any other pertinent expenses incident to the issuance, sale and delivery of the Obligations and such other appropriate expenses as may be approved by the Governmental Agency Chief Executive, including but not limited to the Governmental Agency's pro rata share of the Program's fees and expenses.

The balance shall be deposited to the Governmental Agency Account to be used for the Project.

(b) *Governmental Agency Account.* It is hereby acknowledged that a fund entitled "North Mercer Water District Governmental Agency Account" (the "Governmental Agency Account") has been created and maintained by the Trustee pursuant to the Indenture; and such amount on deposit in said Governmental Agency Account shall be transferred as follows:

(1) to the Rural Development of the Department of Agriculture of the United States of America, the holder of the Series 1992 Bonds, as may be required:

(i) To pay the interest on the Series 1992 Bonds to and including June 16, 2010; and

(ii) To redeem on June 16, 2010 at a price equal to 100% of principal amount the Series 1992 Bonds that as of that date have not been redeemed, retired or otherwise paid, thereby defeasing the pledge of revenues and the property securing the Series 1992 Bonds.

(2) to the Bank of New York Mellon Trust Company, N.A., the paying agent for the Series 1996 Refunding Bonds, as may be required:

(i) To pay the interest on the Series 1996 Refunding Bonds to and including June 16, 2010; and

(ii) To redeem on June 16, 2010 at a price equal to 100% of principal amount the Series 1996 Refunding Bonds that as of that date have not been redeemed, retired or otherwise paid, thereby defeasing the pledge of revenues and the property securing the Series 1996 Refunding Bonds.

Investment income derived from investment of the Governmental Agency Account, which shall be invested in Permitted Investments in accordance with this Assistance Agreement, shall, as received, be deposited in the Governmental Agency Account.

The Trustee shall be obligated to send written notice to the Governmental Agency of the need for investment directions if and whenever funds in excess of \$50,000 shall remain uninvested for a period of more than five days. In the absence of written direction from the Governmental Agency with respect to investment of moneys held in the Governmental Agency Account, the Trustee is hereby directed to invest funds in money market mutual funds of the Trustee or its affiliates that qualify as Permitted Investments under this Assistance Agreement.

No expenditure shall be made from the Governmental Agency Account except for proper and authorized expenses relating to the Project as approved by the Governmental Agency.

After completion of the Project, any balance then remaining on deposit in the Governmental Agency Account shall, subject to any and all applicable legal provisions and applicable arbitrage regulations necessary to assure the exemption of interest on the Obligations from Federal income taxation, upon orders of the Governing Body, be transferred to the Sinking Fund, to be used for the purposes thereof.

Section 9. Arbitrage Limitations.

(a) The Governmental Agency covenants that neither the proceeds of the Obligations, nor "Non-Exempt Revenues" of the System, as defined below, will be invested in investments which will produce a net adjusted yield in excess of the net interest cost (effective yield) of the Obligations, if such investment would cause such Obligations to be treated as "arbitrage bonds" within the meaning of Section 148 of the Internal Revenue Code, as amended, and the applicable regulations thereunder; provided, however, that such proceeds and/or revenues may be invested to whatever extent and whenever the Code and/or applicable regulations permit same to be invested without causing the Obligations to be treated as "arbitrage bonds."

(b) "Non-Exempt Revenues" within the meaning of the foregoing shall be deemed to refer to revenues of the System deposited in any of the funds earmarked for or reasonably expected to be used for the payment of debt service on the Obligations, in excess of "Exempt Revenues," which Exempt Revenues are:

(1) amounts deposited in the Sinking Fund for the purpose of paying debt service on any Obligations against the System within thirteen (13) months from the date of deposit; and

(2) amounts deposited in the Depreciation Fund or any similar reserve for replacements, reasonably expected to be used for extensions, additions, improvements or replacements to the System, and not reasonably expected to be used to pay debt service (even if pledged to be used to pay debt service in the event of the unexpected inadequacy of other funds pledged for that purpose).

(c) If, and to the extent that any Non-Exempt Revenues are on deposit and are available for investment by reason of the foregoing, such funds shall be subject to the investment limitations set out in Subsection (a) above.

(d) On the basis of information furnished to the Governmental Agency, on known facts, circumstances and reasonable expectations on the date of enactment of this Assistance Agreement, the Governmental Agency certifies as follows:

(1) That it is not expected or contemplated that the proceeds of the Obligations will be used or invested in any manner which will cause any of the Obligations to be treated as "arbitrage bonds" within the meaning of Section 148 of the Code and the applicable regulations thereunder.

(2) That it is not expected or contemplated that the Governmental Agency will make any use of the proceeds of the Obligations, which, if such use had been reasonably anticipated on the date of issuance of the Obligations, would have caused the Obligations to be arbitrage bonds.

(3) That it is expected and contemplated that the Governmental Agency will comply with (i) all of the requirements of Section 148 of the Code; and (ii) all of the requirements of the applicable regulations thereunder, to whatever extent is necessary to assure that the Obligations will not be treated as arbitrage bonds.

(4) That it is anticipated that amounts on deposit in the Sinking Fund will be used within 13 months from the date of deposit for the payment of debt service on the outstanding Obligations and all Prior Bonds payable from said Sinking Fund.

(5) That amounts accumulated in the Sinking Fund shall not exceed the limitations set forth in this Assistance Agreement.

(6) That it is not reasonably anticipated that amounts accumulated in the Depreciation Fund will be used for payment of debt service on any bonds payable from the revenues of the System, even though such Depreciation Fund will be so available if necessary to prevent a default in the payment of principal and interest on such bonds.

Prior to or at the time of delivery of the Obligations, the Governmental Agency Chief Executive and/or the Governmental Agency Treasurer are authorized to execute the appropriate certification with reference to the matters referred to above, setting out all known and contemplated facts concerning such anticipated investment of the proceeds of the Obligations, including the execution of necessary and/or desirable certifications of the type contemplated by the Code and applicable regulations, as amended, in order to assure that interest on the Obligations will be exempt from all federal income taxes and that the Obligations will not constitute or be treated as arbitrage bonds.

Section 10. Parity Bonds. The Obligations shall not be entitled to priority one over the other in the application of the income and revenues of the System, regardless of the time or times of their issuance, it being the intention that there shall be no priority among the Obligations, regardless of the fact they may be actually issued and delivered at different times, and provided further that the lien and security of and for any bonds or obligations hereafter issued that are payable from the income and revenues of the System, shall, except as set out herein, be subject to the priority of the Prior Bonds and the Obligations as may from time to time be outstanding; provided the Governmental Agency has in said Prior Bond Legislation reserved the right and privilege, and does hereby reserve the right and privilege, of issuing additional bonds from time to time payable from the income and revenues of the System ranking on a parity with the Prior Bonds and with the Obligations, but only under the conditions specified in the

Prior Bond Legislation, which conditions are hereinafter repeated, taking into account the issuance of the Obligations.

The Governmental Agency reserves the right to finance future extensions, additions, and/or improvements to the System by the issuance of one or more additional series of bonds to be secured by a parity lien on and ratably payable from, the revenues of the System pledged to the Prior Bonds and the Obligations, provided;

(a) The facility or facilities to be constructed from the proceeds of the additional parity bonds is or are made a part of the System and its or their revenues are pledged as additional security for the additional parity bonds and the outstanding Prior Bonds and Obligations.

(b) The Governmental Agency is in compliance with all covenants and undertakings in connection with all of the bonds then outstanding and payable from the revenues of the System or any part thereof.

(c) The annual net revenues (defined as gross revenues less operating expenses), of the then existing System for the fiscal year preceding the year in which such Parity Bonds are to be issued, adjusted as hereinafter provided, shall be certified by an independent Certified Public Accountant to be equal at least one hundred twenty percent (120%) of the average annual debt service requirements for principal and interest on all Outstanding Bonds payable from the revenues of the System, plus the anticipated debt service requirements of any Parity Bonds then proposed to be issued. The calculation of average annual debt service requirements of principal and interest on the additional Parity Bonds to be issued shall, regardless of whether such additional Parity Bonds are to be serial or term bonds, be determined on the basis of the principal of and interest on such Parity Bonds being payable in approximately equal annual installments.

(d) The "annual net revenues" referred to above may be adjusted for the purpose of the foregoing computations to reflect:

(1) any revision in the schedule of rates or charges being imposed at the time of the issuance of any such additional Parity Bonds, and

(2) any increase in the annual net revenues to be realized from the proposed extensions, additions and improvements being financed (in whole or in part) by such additional Parity Bonds;

provided all such adjustments shall be based upon and included in a certification of an Independent Consulting Engineer.

(e) Compliance with Section 10(a) through (d) shall not be necessary for the issuance of Parity Bonds if the Governmental Agency has obtained (1) the written consent of the Rural Development of the Department of Agriculture of the United States of America for the issuance

of such Parity Bonds, if the Government is the Owner of any Bonds at the time of issuance of such Parity Bonds; and (2) the written consent of the Owners of all of the then outstanding Prior Bonds, and no other prerequisite need be complied with by the Governmental Agency in order to issue Parity Bonds.

(f) Reference is made to the necessity of obtaining the written consent of the United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development or its successor [the "RD"] for the issuance of future bonds encumbering the System while the RD holds any bonds payable from the revenues of the System.

(g) The Governmental Agency hereby covenants and agrees that in the event any additional Parity Bonds are issued, the Governmental Agency shall:

(1) Adjust the monthly amount to be deposited into the Sinking Fund on the same basis as that prescribed in the provisions establishing such Sinking Fund, to reflect the annual debt service requirements of the additional Parity Bonds; and

(2) Adjust the minimum annual amount to be deposited monthly into the Sinking Fund on the same basis as that prescribed in the provisions establishing such Sinking Fund, taking into account the future debt service requirements of all first lien bonds which will then be outstanding against the System.

(h) The Governmental Agency reserves the right to issue parity bonds to refund or refinance any part or all of the Prior Bonds and the Obligations, provided that prior to the issuance of such additional parity bonds for that purpose, there shall have been procured and filed with the Governmental Agency Clerk of the Governmental Agency a statement by a Certified Public Accountant, as defined herein, reciting the opinion based upon necessary investigation that:

(1) after the issuance of such parity bonds, the annual net revenues, as adjusted and defined above, of the then existing system for the fiscal year preceding the date of issuance of such Parity Bonds, after taking into account the revised debt service requirements resulting from the issuance of such Parity Bonds and from the elimination of the Bonds being refunded or refinanced thereby, are equal to not less than 120% of the average annual debt service requirements then scheduled to fall due in any fiscal year thereafter for principal of and interest on all of the then outstanding Bonds payable from the revenues of the System, calculated in the manner specified above; or

(2) in the alternative, that the average annual debt service requirements for the Prior Bonds, the Obligations, any previously issued Parity Bonds and the proposed refunding Parity Bonds, in any year of maturities thereof after the redemption of the Bonds scheduled to be refunded through the issuance of such proposed refunding Parity Bonds, shall not exceed the average annual debt service requirements applicable to the then outstanding Prior Bonds, the Obligations and any previously issued Parity Bonds for

any year prior to the issuance of such proposed Parity Bonds and the redemption of the Bonds to be refunded.

Section 11. Rates and Charges for Services of the System. While any Bonds are outstanding and unpaid, the rates for all services of the System rendered by the Governmental Agency to its citizens, corporations, or others requiring the same, shall be reasonable and just, taking into account and consideration the cost and value of said System, the cost of maintaining and operating the same, the proper and necessary allowances for depreciation thereof, and the amounts necessary for the retirement of the outstanding Bonds and the accruing interest on all such Bonds as may be outstanding under the provisions of this Assistance Agreement and the Prior Bond Legislation, and there shall be charged such rates and amounts as shall be adequate to meet all requirements of the provisions of this Assistance Agreement. Prior to the issuance of the Obligations a schedule of rates and charges for the services rendered by the System to all users adequate to meet all requirements of this Assistance Agreement has been established and adopted.

The Governmental Agency covenants that it will not reduce the rates and charges for the services rendered by the System without first filing with the Governmental Agency Clerk a certification of an Independent Consulting Engineer or a Certified Public Accountant that the "annual net revenues" (defined as gross revenues less operating expenses) of the then existing System for the fiscal year preceding the year in which such reduction is proposed, as such annual net revenues are adjusted, after taking into account the projected reduction in annual net revenues anticipated to result from any such proposed rate decrease, are equal to not less than 120% of the average annual debt service requirements for principal and interest on all of the then outstanding bonds payable from the revenues of the System, calculated in the manner specified in Section 10 hereof.

Section 12. All Obligations of this Issue Are Equal. The Obligations authorized and permitted to be issued hereunder, and from time to time outstanding, shall not be entitled to priority one over the other in the application of the income and revenues of the System regardless of the time or times of their issuance, it being the intention that there shall be no priority among the Obligations, the Prior Bonds and any Parity Bonds authorized or permitted to be issued under the provisions of this Assistance Agreement, regardless of the fact that they may be actually issued and delivered at different times.

Section 13. Defeasance and/or Refunding of Obligations. The Governmental Agency reserves the right, at any time, to cause the pledge of the revenues securing the outstanding Obligations to be defeased and released by paying an amount into an escrow fund sufficient, when invested (or sufficient without such investment, as the case may be) in cash and/or U.S. Obligations, to assure the availability in such escrow fund of an adequate amount (a) to call for redemption and to redeem and retire all of such outstanding Obligations, both as to principal and as to interest, on the next or any optional redemption date, including all costs and expenses in connection therewith, and to pay all principal and interest falling due on the outstanding Obligations to and on said date, or (b) to pay all principal and interest requirements

on the outstanding Obligations as same mature, without redemption in advance of maturity, the determination of whether to defease under (a) or (b) or both to be made by the Governing Body. Such U.S. Obligations shall have such maturities as to assure that there will be sufficient funds for such purpose. If such defeasance is to be accomplished pursuant to (a), the Governmental Agency shall take all steps necessary to publish the required notice of the redemption of the outstanding Obligations and the applicable redemption date. Upon the proper amount of such investments being placed in escrow and so secured, such revenue pledge shall be automatically fully defeased and released without any further action being necessary.

Section 14. Contractual Nature of Assistance Agreement. The provisions of this Assistance Agreement shall constitute a contract between the Governmental Agency and the Issuer; and after the issuance of any of such Obligations, no change, variation or alteration of any kind in the provisions of this Assistance Agreement, nor of the Prior Bond Legislation, shall be made in any manner except as herein or therein provided until such time as all of the Bonds authorized thereby and the interest thereon have been paid or provided for in full, or as otherwise provided herein; provided (a) that the Governing Body may enact legislation for any other purpose not inconsistent with the terms of this Assistance Agreement, and which shall not impair the security of the Issuer and/or for the purpose of curing any ambiguity, or of curing, correcting or supplementing any defective or inconsistent provisions contained herein or in any ordinance or other proceedings pertaining hereto.

Section 15. Appointment and Duties of Trustee. The Trustee is hereby designated as the bond registrar and paying agent with respect to the Obligations.

Its duties as Trustee shall be as follows:

- (a) To register all of the Obligations in the names of the Issuer;
- (b) To cancel and destroy (or remit to the Governmental Agency for destruction, if so requested by the Governmental Agency) all exchanged, matured, retired and redeemed Obligations, and to maintain adequate records relevant thereto;
- (c) To remit, but only to the extent that all required funds are made available to the Trustee by the Governmental Agency, semiannual interest payments directly to the Issuer's accounts for the Program;
- (d) To notify the Issuer of any Obligations to be redeemed and to redeem Obligations prior to their stated maturity upon receiving sufficient funds; and
- (e) To supply the Governmental Agency with a written accounting evidencing the payment of interest on and principal of the Obligations within thirty (30) days following each respective due date.

The Trustee shall be entitled to the advice of counsel and shall be protected for any acts taken by it in good faith in reliance upon such advice. The Trustee shall not be liable for any actions taken in good faith and believed by it to be within its discretion or the power conferred upon it by this Assistance Agreement, or the responsibility for the consequences of any oversight or error in judgment.

The Trustee may at any time resign from its duties set forth in this Assistance Agreement by filing its resignation with the Governmental Agency Clerk and notifying the Issuer. Thereupon, the Issuer shall notify the Governmental Agency of a successor Trustee which shall be an incorporated bank or trust company authorized to transact business in the United States of America. Notwithstanding the foregoing, in the event of the resignation of the Trustee, provision shall be made for the orderly transition of the books, records and accounts relating to the Obligations to the successor Trustee in order that there will be no delinquencies in the payment of interest or principal due on the Obligations.

Section 16. Provisions in Conflict Repealed. All ordinances, resolutions and orders, or parts thereof, in conflict herewith are, to the extent of such conflict, hereby repealed; and it is hereby specifically ordered and provided that any proceedings heretofore taken for the issuance of other bonds payable or secured in any manner by all or any part of the income and revenues of the System, or any part thereof, and which have not heretofore been issued and delivered, are hereby revoked and rescinded, and none of such other bonds shall be issued and delivered.

Section 17. Covenant of Governmental Agency to Take All Action Necessary to Assure Compliance with the Internal Revenue Code of 1986. In order to assure purchasers of the Obligations that interest thereon will continue to be exempt from federal and Kentucky income taxation (subject to certain exceptions set out below), the Governmental Agency covenants to and with the Issuer that (1) the Governmental Agency will take all actions necessary to comply with the provisions of the Code, (2) the Governmental Agency will take no actions which will violate any of the provisions of the Code, or would cause the Obligations to become "private activity bonds" within the meaning of the Code, (3) none of the proceeds of the Obligations will be used for any purpose which would cause the interest on the Obligations to become subject to federal income taxation, and the Governmental Agency will comply with any and all requirements as to rebate (and reports with reference thereto) to the United States of America of certain investment earnings on the proceeds of the Obligations.

The Governmental Agency reserves the right to amend this Assistance Agreement but only with the consent of the Issuer (i) to whatever extent shall, in the opinion of Bond Counsel, be deemed necessary to assure that interest on the Obligations shall be exempt from federal income taxation, and (ii) to whatever extent shall be permissible (without jeopardizing such tax exemption or the security of such owners) to eliminate or reduce any restrictions concerning the investment of the proceeds of these Obligations, or the application of such proceeds or of the revenues of the System. The purchasers of these Obligations are deemed to have relied fully upon these covenants and undertakings on the part of the Governmental Agency as part of the consideration for the purchase of the Obligations. To the extent that the Governmental Agency

obtains an opinion of nationally recognized bond counsel to the effect that non-compliance with any of the covenants contained in this Assistance Agreement or referred to in this Assistance Agreement would not subject interest on the Obligations to federal income taxes or Kentucky income taxes, the Governmental Agency shall not be required to comply with such covenants or requirements.

This Assistance Agreement is enacted in contemplation that Bond Counsel will render an opinion as to exemption of principal of the Obligations from Kentucky ad valorem taxation and as to exemption of interest on the Obligations from federal and Kentucky income taxation, based on the assumption by Bond Counsel that the Governmental Agency complies with covenants made by the Governmental Agency with respect to compliance with the provisions of the Code, and based on the assumption of compliance by the Governmental Agency with requirements as to any required rebate (and reports with reference thereto) to the United States of America of certain investment earnings on the proceeds of the Obligations. The Governmental Agency has been advised that based on the foregoing assumptions of compliance, Bond Counsel is of the opinion that the Obligations are not "arbitrage bonds" within the meaning of Section 148 of the Code.

Section 18. Bank Eligibility. The Governmental Agency hereby certifies that it does not reasonably anticipate issuing "qualified tax-exempt obligations" during the calendar year in which the Obligations are being issued in excess of \$30,000,000, and, therefore, the Governmental Agency does hereby designate the Obligations as "qualified tax-exempt obligations" pursuant to the provisions of Section 265(b)(3) of the Code.

Section 19. Insurance.

(a) *Fire and Extended Coverage.* If and to the extent that the System includes structures above ground level, the Governmental Agency shall, upon receipt of the proceeds of the sale of the Obligations, if such insurance is not already in force, procure fire and extended coverage insurance on the insurable portion of all of the facilities of the System, of a kind and in such amounts as would ordinarily be carried by private companies or public bodies engaged in operating a similar utility.

The foregoing fire and extended coverage insurance shall be maintained so long as any of the Obligations are outstanding and shall be in amounts sufficient to provide for not less than full recovery whenever a loss from perils insured against does not exceed eighty percent (80%) of the full insurable value of the damaged facility.

In the event of any damage to or destruction of any part of the System the Governmental Agency shall promptly arrange for the application of the insurance proceeds for the repair or reconstruction of the damaged or destroyed portion thereof.

(b) *Liability Insurance on Facilities.* So long as any of the Obligations are outstanding, the Governmental Agency shall, procure and maintain, public liability insurance

relating to the operation of the facilities of the System, with limits of not less than \$200,000 for one person and \$1,000,000 for more than one person involved in one accident, to protect the Governmental Agency from claims for bodily injury and/or death; and not less than \$200,000 from claims for damage to property of others which may arise from the Governmental Agency's operations of the System and any other facilities constituting a portion of the System.

(c) *Vehicle Liability Insurance.* If and to the extent that the Governmental Agency owns or operates vehicles in the operation of the System, upon receipt of the proceeds of the Obligations, the Governmental Agency shall, if such insurance is not already in force, procure and maintain, so long as any of the Obligations are outstanding, vehicular public liability insurance with limits of not less than \$200,000 for one person and \$1,000,000 for more than one person involved in one accident, to protect the Governmental Agency from claims for bodily injury and/or death, and not less than \$200,000 against claims for damage to property of others which may arise from the operation of such vehicles by the Governmental Agency.

Section 20. Event of Default; Remedies. The following items shall constitute an "Event of Default" on the part of the Governmental Agency:

(a) The failure to pay principal on the Obligations when due and payable, either at maturity or by proceedings for redemption;

(b) The failure to pay any installment of interest on the Obligations when the same shall become due and payable;

(c) The failure of the Governmental Agency to fulfill any of its obligations pursuant to this Assistance Agreement and to cure any such failure within 30 days after receipt of written notice of such failure; and/or

(d) The failure to promptly repair, replace or reconstruct essential facilities of the System after any major damage and/or destruction thereof.

Upon the occurrence of an Event of Default, the Issuer or the Trustee on its behalf, as owner of the Obligations, may enforce and compel the performance of all duties and obligations of the Governmental Agency as set forth herein. Upon the occurrence of an Event of Default, then, upon the filing of suit by the Trustee or the Issuer, any court having jurisdiction of the action may appoint a receiver to administer the System on behalf of the Governmental Agency, with power to charge and collect rates sufficient to provide for the payment of the principal of and interest on the Obligations, and for the payment of operation and maintenance expenses of the System, and to provide and apply the income and revenues in conformity with this Assistance Agreement and with the laws of the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

In addition to and apart from the foregoing, upon the occurrence of an Event of Default, the owner of any of the Obligations may require the Governmental Agency by demand, court

order, injunction, or otherwise, to raise all applicable rates charged for services of the System a reasonable amount, consistent with the requirements of this Assistance Agreement.

Section 21. Annual Reports. The Governmental Agency hereby agrees to provide or cause to be provided to the Issuer and the Compliance Group audited financial statements prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles (commencing with the fiscal year ended December 31, 2010) and such other financial information and/or operating data as requested by the Issuer or the Compliance Group.

The annual financial information and operating data, including audited financial statements, will be made available on or before 120 days after the end of each fiscal year (December 31).

Section 22. Supplemental Assistance Agreement. The Governmental Agency may, but only with the consent of the Issuer, execute one or more supplemental Assistance Agreements as shall not be inconsistent with the terms and provisions hereof for any one or more of the following purposes:

- (a) to cure any ambiguity or formal defect or omission in this Assistance Agreement;
- (b) to subject to the lien and pledge of this Assistance Agreement additional revenues, properties, or collateral which may legally be subjected;
- (c) to add to the conditions, limitations and restrictions on the issuance of bonds, other conditions, limitations and restrictions thereafter to be observed;
- (d) to add to the covenants and agreements of the Governmental Agency in this Assistance Agreement, other covenants and agreements thereafter to be incurred by the Governmental Agency or to surrender any right or power herein reserved to or conferred upon the Governmental Agency;
- (e) to effect the issuance of additional Parity Bonds; and/or
- (f) to modify the terms and conditions of this Assistance Agreement at the request of the Issuer in order to assist the Issuer in operating the Program or to maintain any rating the Issuer may have on its Program obligations.

Section 23. No Remedy Exclusive. No remedy herein conferred upon or reserved to the Issuer is intended to be exclusive, and every such remedy will be cumulative and will be in addition to every other remedy given hereunder and every remedy now or hereafter existing at law or in equity. No delay or omission to exercise any right or power accruing upon any default will impair any such right or power and any such right and power may be exercised from time to time and as often as may be deemed expedient.

Section 24. Waivers. In the event that any agreement contained herein should be breached by either party and thereafter waived by the other party, such waiver will be limited to the particular breach so waived and will not be deemed to waive any other breach hereunder.

Section 25. Agreement to Pay Attorneys' Fees and Expenses. In the event that either party hereto shall become in default under any of the provisions hereof and the non-defaulting party employs attorneys or incurs other expenses for the enforcement of performance or observance of any obligation or agreement on the part of the defaulting party herein contained, the defaulting party agrees that it will pay on demand therefore to the non-defaulting party the fees of such attorneys and such other expenses so incurred by the non-defaulting party.

Section 26. Signatures of Officers. If any of the officers whose signatures or facsimile signatures appear on this Assistance Agreement or any other document evidencing the Obligations cease to be such officers before delivery of the Obligations, such signatures shall nevertheless be valid for all purposes the same as if such officers had remained in office until delivery, as provided by KRS 58.040 and KRS 61.390.

Section 27. Severability Clause. If any section, paragraph, clause or provision of this Assistance Agreement shall be held invalid, the invalidity of such section, paragraph, clause or provision shall not affect any of the remaining provisions of this Assistance Agreement.

[Signature page follows]

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Kentucky Rural Water Finance Corporation has caused this Assistance Agreement to be signed in its name by its President and attested by its Secretary/Treasurer and the North Mercer Water District has caused this Assistance Agreement to be signed in corporate name and by its officer thereunder duly authorized, all as of the day and year first above written.

KENTUCKY RURAL WATER FINANCE CORPORATION

By _____
President

Attest:

By _____
Secretary/Treasurer

NORTH MERCER WATER DISTRICT

By Ray Short
Chairman

Attest:

By Jony Best
Secretary

EXHIBIT A

Debt Service Schedule