## COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY

## BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of:
ELECTRONIC TARIFF FILING OF ) THE CITY OF LANCASTER TO )
INCREASE THE WHOLESALE RATE ) CASE NO. 2023-000424
CHARGED TO THE GARRARD ) COUNTY WATER ASSOCIATION )

## RESPONSE OF

THE CITY OF LANCASTER

TO
GARRARD COUNTY WATER ASSOCIATION'S
REQUEST FOR INFORMATION
DATED APRIL 12, 2024

FILED: MAY 2, 2024

## COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY

## BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

## In the Matter of:


#### Abstract

ELECTRONIC TARIFF FILING OF THE CITY ) OF LANCASTER TO INCREASE THE ) WHOLESALE RATE CHARGED TO THE ) NO. 2023-000424 GARRARD COUNTY WATER ASSOCIATION )


## RESPONSE OF THE CITY OF LANCASTER TO GARRARD COUNTY WATER ASSOCIATION'S REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

Comes the City of Lancaster (the "District") for its Response to Garrard County Water Association's Request for Information, and states as shown on the following pages.


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## COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY

## BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of:

# ELECTRONIC TARIFF FILING OF THE CITY ) OF LANCASTER TO INCREASE THE ) WHOLESALE RATE CHARGED TO THE ) NO. 2023-000424 GARRARD COUNTY WATER ASSOCIATION ) 

## CERTIFICATION OF RESPONSE OF THE CITY OF LANCASTER TO GARRARD COUNTY WATER ASSOCIATION'S REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

This is to certify that I have supervised the preparation of the City of Lancaster's Responses to Garrard County Water Association's Request for Information. The response submitted on behalf of the City of Lancaster is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief formed after a reasonable inquiry.

Date: May 2, 2024


The City of Lancaster

## CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

In accordance with the Commission's Order of July 22, 2021 in Case No. 2020-00085 (Electronic Emergency Docket Related to the Novel Coronavirus COVID-19), this is to certify that the electronic filing has been transmitted to the Commission on May 2, 2024; and that there are currently no parties in this proceeding that the Commission has excused from participation by electronic means.


# THE CITY OF LANCASTER 

CASE NO. 2023-000424
Response to Garrard County Water Association's
Request for Information
Question No. 1
Responding Witnesses: Robert K. Miller, Kentucky Rural Water Association

Q-1. Refer to the Response to Commission Staff's First Request for Information filed on January 19, 2024, Response to Question 2, which stated,

The wholesale analysis was computed based on recovery of Operating Expenses, Depreciation Expenses, and Debt Service Expenses. The retail analysis was also initially computed using the same method, based on recovery of Operating Expenses, Depreciation Expenses, and Debt Service Expenses. The Lancaster City Council requested an alternative for their consideration based on Operating Expenses and Debt Service Expenses only. After consideration, the Council adopted wholesale rates that included Depreciation Expenses and retail rates that excluded Depreciation Expenses. (Emphasis added) There were no other differences in the calculation methods between the retail and wholesale customers.
(a). Please explain why the Council believes it is reasonable to adopt wholesale rates that include Depreciation Expenses and retail rates that exclude Depreciation Expenses.
(b). Please provide an accounting of the current rates and the proposed rates for each of Lancaster's wholesale customers and the retail customers.
(c). Please provide the total amount of water in gallons purchased by Garrard County in 2023, and using that total, provide the cost of that water in dollars for 2023, the cost of that total using the proposed rate and the increases proposed for the next three years.
(d). Please provide the percentage of Lancaster's water supply used for each wholesale customer and the retail customers for 2023.

A-1. (a). It is my understanding that the Council believes it is reasonable to adopt wholesale rates that include Depreciation Expenses and retail rates that exclude Depreciation Expenses because:

- The City of Lancaster anticipates its water system will require investments in infrastructure replacement and rehabilitation requirements in the future; and
- The City of Lancaster expects that those infrastructure investments that benefit only its retail system will be paid from City of Lancaster funds; and
- The City of Lancaster expects that those infrastructure investments that benefit both its retail and wholesale customer will be paid proportionately from the City of Lancaster funds and depreciation funds; and
- The City of Lancaster has access to water system funds, general funds, and other funds to pay for its proportional share of infrastructure investments; and
- As a home rule-class city, the City of Lancaster has the statutory authority to set public policy for how it will pay its proportional share of water system infrastructure investments. It is my further understanding that the City of Lancaster intends to deposit depreciation funds paid by its wholesale customers into a separate bank account and to requisition funds from that account only for that proportional share of infrastructure investments that benefit the wholesale customers and only after giving notice to the wholesale customers.
(b). See the Charts identifying the 2024, 2025, and 2026 Wholesale Water Rates, respectively, marked as Attachment 1-B.
(c). See the Chart identifying the total amount of water in gallons purchased by Garrard County in 2023, and using that total, the proposed cost of the water in dollars for years 2024, 2025, and 2026, respectively, marked as Attachment 1-C.
(d). Total Water Sales in 2023

Garrard County Water Association

City of Crab Orchard

Lancaster Retail Customers

Total Water Production in 2023
Garrard County Water Association

City of Crab Orchard

Lancaster Retail Customers

Water Used at Treatment Plant,
System Flushing, and Line Losses

540,685,462 gallons
419,353,821 gallons or $77.6 \%$

41,350,785 gallons or $7.6 \%$

79,980,856 gallons or $14.8 \%$

640,703,000 gallons
419,353,821 gallons or $65.4 \%$

41,350,785 gallons or $6.5 \%$

79,980,856 gallons or $12.5 \%$

100,017,538 gallons or $15.6 \%$

## ATTACHMENT 1-B

## EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2024

RESIDENTIAL IN TOWN WATER RATES IN THOUSAND GALLONS

| Previous |  |  | New |  |  | Difference |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Minimum Monthly Bill for 1,000 Gallons | \$ | 14.30 | Minimum Monthly Bill for 1,000 Gallons | \$ | 14.51 | \$ | 0.21 | 1.47\% |
| Next 1,000 Gallons | \$ | 7.21 | Next 1,000 Gallons | \$ | 7.32 | \$ | 0.11 | 1.53\% |
| Next 10,000 Gallons | \$ | 6.78 | Next 10,000 Gallons | \$ | 6.88 | \$ | 0.10 | 1.47\% |
| Next 14,000 Gallons | \$ | 6.58 | Next 14,000 Gallons | \$ | 6.68 | \$ | 0.10 | 1.52\% |
| Next 24,000 Gallons | \$ | 5.82 | Next 24,000 Gallons | \$ | 5.91 | \$ | 0.09 | 1.55\% |
| Next 1,000,000 Gallons | \$ | 5.41 | Next 950,000 Gallons | \$ | 5.49 | \$ | 0.08 | 1.48\% |
| All Over 10,000,000 Gallons | \$ | 3.53 | All Over 1,000,000 Gallons | \$ | 3.58 | \$ | 0.05 | 1.42\% |

RESIDENTIAL OUTSIDE TOWN WATER RATES IN THOUSAND GALLONS

| Previous |  |  | New |  |  | Difference |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Minimum Monthly Bill for 1,000 Gallons | \$ | 21.32 | Minimum Monthly Bill for 1,000 Gallons | \$ | 21.64 | \$ | 0.32 | 1.50\% |
| Next 1,000 Gallons | \$ | 10.79 | Next 1,000 Gallons | \$ | 10.95 | \$ | 0.16 | 1.48\% |
| Next 10,000 Gallons | \$ | 10.17 | Next 10,000 Gallons | \$ | 10.32 | \$ | 0.15 | 1.47\% |
| Next 14,000 Gallons | \$ | 9.86 | Next 14,000 Gallons | \$ | 10.01 | \$ | 0.15 | 1.52\% |
| Next 24,000 Gallons | \$ | 8.72 | Next 24,000 Gallons | \$ | 8.85 | \$ | 0.13 | 1.49\% |
| Next 1,000,000 Gallons | \$ | 8.10 | Next 950,000 Gallons | \$ | 8.22 | \$ | 0.12 | 1.48\% |
| All Over 10,000,000 Gallons | \$ | 5.30 | All Over 1,000,000 Gallons | \$ | 5.38 | \$ | 0.08 | 1.51\% |

## COMMERCIAL WATER RATES IN THOUSAND GALLONS



|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| WHOLESALE WATER RATES IN THOUSAND GALLONS |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Previous |  | New |  |  | Difference |  |  |
| First 325,000,000 Gallons Minimum Annual Purchase | \$ 2.49 | First 325,000,000 Gallons Minimum Annual Purchase | \$ | 2.91 | \$ | 0.42 | 16.87\% |
| All Over 325,000,000 Gallons Annual Purchase | \$ 1.40 | All Over 325,000,000 Gallons Annual Purchase | \$ | 1.64 | \$ | 0.24 | 17.14\% |
| SEWER RATES IN THOUSAND GALLONS |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Previous |  | New |  |  | Difference |  |  |
| All Usage | \$ 10.31 | All Usage | \$ | 11.39 | \$ | 1.08 | 10.48\% |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |




## ATTACHMENT 1-C



# THE CITY OF LANCASTER 

CASE NO. 2023-000424
Response to Garrard County Water Association's
Request for Information
Question No. 2
Responding Witnesses: Robert K. Miller, Kentucky Rural Water Association

Q-2. Describe any infrastructure or depreciated assets that are utilized by serving Garrard County, that are not utilized by serving retail customers.

A-2. All assets utilized by serving Garrard County Water Association are also utilized by serving the City of Lancaster retail customers.

THE CITY OF LANCASTER
CASE NO. 2023-000424
Response to Garrard County Water Association's
Request for Information
Question No. 3
Responding Witnesses: Robert K. Miller, Kentucky Rural Water Association

Q-3. Please explain whether all of assets used by retail customers have been fully depreciated.

A-3. All assets used by retail customers have not been fully depreciated. The amount of depreciation is shown in Table B, which appears as Attachment 3.

## ATTACHMENT 3



## THE CITY OF LANCASTER

CASE NO. 2023-000424

## Response to Garrard County Water Association's

## Request for Information

Question No. 4

## Responding Witnesses: Robert K. Miller, Kentucky Rural Water Association

Q-4. Describe the cost justification for the cost of providing water to Garrard County as compared to the cost of providing water to any other wholesale customers and the retail customers.

A-4. The cost justification for the cost of providing water to Garrard County is the recovery of operating expenses, debt service and debt service coverage, and depreciation expenses attributable to wholesale customers as computed by a cost-of-service rate study performed by Kentucky Rural Water Association using methods consistent with the American Water Works Association M1 Manual: Principles of Water Rates, Fees, and Charges.

The rate proposed for Garrard County is identical to the rate charged to the City of Crab Orchard, which is the only other wholesale customer of the City of Lancaster.

The cost justification for the cost of providing water to retail customers is the recovery of operating expenses, debt service and debt service coverage, and depreciation expenses that are not allocated to wholesale customers.

The Wholesale Allocation Factors used in the rate study are shown in Table F and the Wholesale Rate Computations performed in the rate study are shown in Table G, both of which are attached as Attachment 4.

## ATTACHMENT 4



## Table G

## WHOLESALE RATE COMPUTATION

## City of Lancaster Kentucky Water System



