#### **COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY**

#### **BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

In the Matter of:

ELECTRONIC APPLICATION OF KENTUCKY RURAL WATER ASSOCIATION FOR ACCREDITATION APPROVAL OF COMMISSIONER TRAINING AND CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDIT

) ) CASE NO. 2024-00009 ) )

)

#### APPLICATION

Kentucky Rural Water Association ("KRWA" or the "Applicant") applies for an Order from the Public Service Commission accrediting and approving a proposed water district commissioner training program for continuing education credit pursuant to KRS 74.020(6) and (7) and 807 KAR 5:070.

In support of its 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. Its 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

25,000 or less service connections, or other similar entities that provide water

and wastewater utility services to rural Kentucky.

4. Pursuant to 807 KAR 5:001, Section 4(8),<sup>1</sup> copies of all orders, pleadings,

and other communications related to this proceeding should be directed to:

Damon Talley Stoll Keenon Ogden PLLC 112 North Lincoln Boulevard PO Box 150 Hodgenville, Kentucky 42748 Telephone: (270) 358-3187 Fax: (270) 358-9560 damon.talley@skofirm.com

Janet Cole Kentucky Rural Water Association 1151 Old Porter Pike Bowling Green, KY 42103 (270) 843-2291 Fax: (270) 796-8623 j.cole@krwa.org

5. KRWA proposes to sponsor and conduct a water management training program on February 21, 2024, as part of our Management Conference at the Sloan Convention Center located at 1021 Wilkinson Trace, Bowling Green, Kentucky. The Program is entitled "Water District Commissioner Training." A copy of the proposed agenda is attached to this Application at **Exhibit 1**. This program will be conducted inperson. Presenters, KRWA staff, and all attendees will abide by the COVID-19 safety protocols and social distancing measures in place at the time of the training.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> On January 17, 2024, KRWA gave notice pursuant to 807 KAR 5:001, Section 8, of its intent to file this application and of its use of electronic filing procedures.

6. As reflected in **Exhibit 1**, the proposed training program will include presentations on the following topics:

a. Essential Requirements for Utilities Undergoing a PSC Inspection
(Part 1). An understanding of the expected requirements of utilities when undergoing inspections. The presentations will address essential requirements for a positive inspection and the common deficiencies that can be avoided in order to meet regulatory standards;

b. Essential Requirements for Utilities Undergoing a PSC Inspection (Part 2). Continuation of Part 1 from the Public Service Commission;

c. **Practical Suggestions for a Successful PSC Rate Adjustment Filing.** Practical suggestions will for a successful and uneventful rate proceeding before the Public Service Commission. Topics will include frequency of rate applications, timing of a rate filing, issues to consider before preparing the application, strategies, preparing for a hearing and a discussion of common mistakes to avoid;

d. **Utility Consolidation Through Merger or Acquisition.** A detailed overview of the step-by-step approach for evaluating a potential utility consolidation and factors to consider when assessing options. Presenter will detail the methodology for evaluating a potential consolidation;

e. **Joint Operations.** Joint Operations will be defined as an option when considering consolidation. The value of this alternative collaboration will be detailed.

-3-

Suggestions for developing a joint management and operations agreement will be included;

f. **The Importance of Cybersecurity.** Importance of a robust cybersecurity strategy to protect utility infrastructure, ensure reliability of services, and safeguard sensitive data. A real-world example of a cyber-attack will be presented as an example of how such an attack can impact an organization, including water and wastewater utilities;

g. **Call Before You Dig: Kentucky 811**. Regulations and procedures that require individuals or entities to notify authorities before excavating or digging in a particular area. Presenter will provide a brief history of the 811 law and its changes, how the law impacts water and wastewater operators, and enforcement and penalties associated with excavation activities.

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 \$6,000. KRWA is not requesting that the proposed training program be accredited as a program of instruction for newly appointed commissioners.

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

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9. Not all presenters will utilize a PowerPoint for their presentation. The materials that will be provided to each attendee are attached at **Exhibit 3**. Should a presenter revise or amend his or her presentation prior to their scheduled session or provide additional materials for the attendees, KRWA will include a copy of the revised presentation with its sworn statement and report regarding the instruction.

10. KRWA will apply or will shortly apply for accreditation of the proposed training program to the Department of Environmental Protection (Operator Certification and Licensing Program).

11. KRWA has sent notice of the proposed training program by electronic mail to the water districts, water associations, and municipal utilities that are under Commission jurisdiction as well as representatives of investor-owned utilities, county judge/executives, and others who 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. Within the Ordered number of days of the proposed training program's completion, KRWA will file with the Public Service Commission 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,

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c. Containing the name of each attending commissioner, their utility 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 Public Service Commission.

15. KRWA will admit representatives of the Public Service 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 the Public Service Commission directives, regulations, or other requirements, or perform any other supervisory functions that the Public Service Commission deems necessary.

WHEREFORE, KRWA requests that the Commission approve and accredit the proposed training program entitled "Water Commissioner Training" for six hours of water district management training.

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Dated: January 18, 2024

Respectfully submitted,

Jalley

Damon R. Talley Stoll Keenon Odgen PLLC 112 North Lincoln Boulevard PO Box 150 Hodgenville, Kentucky 42748 Telephone: (270) 358-3187 Fax: (270) 358-9560 damon.talley@skofirm.com

Counsel for Kentucky Rural Water Association and Stoll Keenon Ogden PLLC

#### **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

In accordance with 807 KAR 5:001, Section 8, I certify that this document was submitted electronically to the Public Service Commission on January 18, 2024, and that there are currently no parties that the Public Service Commission has excused from participation by electronic means in this proceeding.

Wammf. Jalley Damon R. Talley

## **EXHIBIT 1**

### Water District Commissioner Training

#### **Sloan Convention Center**

1021 Wilkinson Trace Bowling Green, Kentucky

Presented by Kentucky Rural Water Association February 21, 2024

#### Wednesday, February 21, 2024

Morning Sessions

- 7:55 8:00 Welcome and Program Overview Scott Young, Executive Director, Kentucky Rural Water Association
- 8:00 9:00 Essential Requirements for Utilities Undergoing a PSC Inspection (Part 1) Presented by the Public Service Commission

When utilities undergo inspections by the Public Service Commission (PSC), they are expected to meet certain requirements to ensure compliance and demonstrate the proper functioning of their operations. This presentation is designed to provide a comprehensive understanding of what utilities need to meet regulatory standards and avoid common deficiencies when experiencing inspections. The goal of these sessions (Part 1 and Part 2) is to empower utilities with the knowledge and tools necessary to navigate PSC inspections successfully. By understanding the essential requirements and learning from common deficiencies, utilities can not only meet regulatory standards but also contribute to the reliability and satisfaction of the services they provide to the public.

#### 9:00 – 9:15 BREAK

- 9:15 10:15 Essential Requirements for Utilities Undergoing a PSC Inspection (Part 2) Presented by the Public Service Commission This is a continuation of Part 1.
- 10:30 11:30 Practical Suggestions for a Successful PSC Rate Adjustment Filing Gerald Wuetcher, Stoll Keenon Ogden, PLLC This presentation provides practical suggestions for a successful and uneventful rate proceeding before the Public Service Commission. Topics addressed include: frequency of rate applications, time of a rate filing, issues to consider before preparing a rate application, strategies for preparing the rate application, responding to discovery requests, dealing with Commission Staff, and preparing for a rate hearing. Presenter will also discuss common mistakes and how to avoid those mistakes.
- 11:30 1:00 LUNCH BREAK

#### Wednesday, February 21, 2024

Afternoon Sessions

#### 1:00 – 1:30 Utility Consolidation Through Merger or Acquisition Robert Miller, StraightLine KY

Utility consolidation refers to the merging or combining of various utility services. The presentation will provide a detailed overview of the step-by-step approach for evaluating a potential utility consolidation and factors to consider when assessing options. Topics will include: a definition of merger and acquisition; rationale and conditions for merging with another system; and detail the methodology for evaluating a potential consolidation.

#### 1:30 – 2:00 Joint Operations

#### John Dix, Past President, Kentucky Rural Water Association

One option available to utilities when considering consolidation is Joint Operations. This session will explore the value of this alternative collaboration and will detail how it can lead to streamlined operations and overall efficiency. The session will also cover the development of an agreement and a plan for joint operations.

#### 2:00 – 2:15 BREAK

#### 2:15 – 3:15 The Importance of Cybersecurity Matthew Folker, ISTT

Given the critical nature of water and wastewater services and the increasing sophistication of cyber threats, a robust cybersecurity strategy is essential to protect infrastructure, ensure the reliability of services, and safeguard sensitive data. This session will provide a real-world example of a cyber-attack, with the presenter explaining the how and why of the events; phishing; the importance of updating software; preventing ransomware; and restoring stolen data. Identifying and assessing cybersecurity risks is essential. Utilities need to understand potential threats, vulnerabilities, and the impact of a cyber-attack on their systems.

#### 3:15-3:30 BREAK

#### 3:30 – 4:30 Call Before You Dig: Kentucky 811 Patrick Donoghue, Kentucky 811

The "Call Before You Dig" law refers to regulations and procedures that require individuals or entities to notify relevant authorities before excavating or digging in a particular area. The primary goal is to prevent damage to underground utilities during excavation activities. This session will cover a brief history of the 811 law and its changes; how these laws impact compliance by water and wastewater operators; duties of the notification center; enforcement & penalties; and a roadmap for safe digging.

#### 4:30 – 4:35 Closing Remarks – Scott Young, Executive Director, Kentucky Rural Water Association

## **EXHIBIT 2**



John M. Dix, P.E., has served the water and wastewater utility business in South Central Kentucky since 1992 when he first joined Warren Water. He is the former General Manager of Warren County Water District, Butler County Water System, Inc. and Simpson County Water District where he remained as a consultant until retiring in December, 2023.

Dix's career also includes serving as Vice President of the regional engineering firm Cannon & Cannon, Inc., City Engineer for Bartlett, Tennessee, and as a Submarine Naval Architect for the Department of the Navy. A Civil Engineering graduate of Virginia Tech in 1982, Dix is a registered Professional Engineer in Kentucky and Tennessee.

John is a Past President of the Kentucky Rural Water Association and is the Immediate Past Chair of the Bowling Green Area Chamber of Commerce's Executive Committee.

In 2019, Dix was appointed to the state Water Resources Board by Governor Bevin and previously served as secretary for the Rochester Dam Regional Water Commission.





**Patrick Donoghue** is a Public Awareness and Damage Prevention Manager for Kentucky 811. In this role he serves as a liaison for members, non-members, the one call center, excavators, contractors, locators, and homeowners. Additionally, Patrick focuses on education and outreach, providing training sessions, presentations, and attending community events to educate people on the dig laws. Prior to joining Kentucky 811, Patrick spent time as a high school substitute teacher and has over 17 years of experience in law enforcement where he served as a patrol officer, training officer, school resource officer, and a member of his agency's professional standards division and training unit.



Matt Folker is the Chief Information Officer for ISTT, Inc. For the last 12 years, he has been working with businesses and government agencies in education, training and empowering others with the tools needed to keep personal data safe and the knowledge to keep cyber criminals out. His passion is to keep the state of Kentucky informed on the current regulations and technologies available to keep business moving forward.



#### QUALIFICATIONS

#### EDUCATION

Bachelors–Management and Finance, University of Louisville, 1979 Masters-Business Administration and Finance, Indiana University 1982

#### YEARS OF EXPERIENCE: 38

#### SPECIALIZATION

Senior Executive in Drinking Water, Wastewater, and Stormwater Industry

#### PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Water Works

Association QualServe Peer Reviewer

AWWA Business Practices Standards Committee Member Vice-Chair (past)

AWWA Utility Management Standards Committee Member (past)

AWWA Finance, Accounting, and Management Controls Committee Chair (past)

AWWA Management Controls Sub-Committee Chair (past)

AWWA Research Foundation Project Participating Utility Member (past)

National Association of Clean Water Agencies, Utility and Resource Management Committee (past)

#### Robert K. Miller StraightLine Kentucky

#### **Professional Profile**

Senior utility executive with 38 years of experience in the drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater industry, including: executive management, strategic planning, policy development, customer service, information technology, and program management. Advocate for sustainability of water infrastructure and affordability for low-income customers. Education includes a Bachelor and Master degrees in business management and finance.

#### **Qualifications and Experience**

#### StraightLine Kentucky, Louisville, KY

#### 2021 - Present Consultant

Advisor to drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater utility managers, regulatory officials, elected officials, and service providers.

#### City of Jackson, Mississippi

#### 2017 - 2020 Director of Public Works

Executive management of Drinking Water, Wastewater, Stormwater, Solid Waste, Streets, Facilities, Fleet, and Warehouse operations and maintenance.

#### Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans, Louisiana

#### 2009 - 2017 Deputy Director / Interim Executive Director

Administrative management of Strategic Planning, Accounting, Budgeting, Purchasing, Customer Service, Human Resources, Information Technology, Risk Management, Fleet Maintenance, Warehouse, Internal Audit, and other operations support services.

#### Municipal and Financial Services Group, Maryland

#### 2008 - 2009 Senior Manager

Management consultant to water and wastewater utilities focusing on enterprise risk management, internal control, financial analysis, and rate studies.

#### Louisville Water Company, Kentucky

#### 1991 - 2008 Vice President

Administrative management of Finance, Information Technology, Risk Management, Business Planning, Human Resources, and Board Relations





Gerald E. Wuetcher Direct Phone: 859.231.3017 gerald.wuetcher@skofirm.com

#### BAR & COURT ADMISSIONS

Kentucky U.S. Court Of Appeals For The Armed Forces

U.S. District Court, Eastern District Of Kentucky

U.S. District Court, Western District Of Kentucky

#### EDUCATION

Emory University 1984, J.D.

Johns Hopkins University 1981, B.A.

#### Gerald E. Wuetcher

Jerry is Counsel to the Firm and a member of the Utility & Energy practice. He brings to Stoll Keenon Ogden more than 25 years of experience working at the Kentucky Public Service Commission, where he served as a staff attorney, deputy general counsel and executive advisor. He frequently appeared before the Commission in administrative proceedings involving electric, natural gas, water and sewer utility issues and represented the Commission in state and federal courts. Jerry also served as the Commission's representative in a number of interagency groups addressing water and wastewater issues. Between 2009 and 2013, he was the Commission's representative on the Board of the Kentucky Infrastructure Authority. Jerry developed and implemented the Commission's training program for water utility officials and served as an instructor for that program. He is frequent speaker on utility and local government issues before such organizations as the Kentucky Rural Water Association, Kentucky League of Cities, the Kentucky Association of Counties, and the Utility Management Institute.

Jerry served for 27 years in the United States Army as a judge advocate before retiring at the rank of Colonel in 2011. His service encompassed numerous roles on active duty and in a reserve status.

Jerry received his J.D. from Emory University in 1984, and earned his B.A. in History with Honors in 1981 from Johns Hopkins University. Jerry also serves as a member of Board of Trustees of the Woodford County Library and has previously served as an adjunct professor at the University of Louisville Brandeis School of Law.

#### Work Highlights

Attorney, Kentucky Public Service Commission (1987-2014). Served as a staff attorney, deputy general counsel and executive advisor. Frequently appeared before the Commission in administrative proceedings involving electric, natural gas, water and sewer utility issues and represented the Commission in state and federal courts. Responsible for drafting and revising the Commission's regulations. Served as the Commission's representative in various interagency groups addressing water and wastewater issues. Served as the Commission's representative on the Kentucky Infrastructure Authority's Board of Directors (2009-2014). Developed the Public Service Commission's water training program for water utility officials.

Judge Advocate, U.S. Army (1984 – 2011). Served as a judge advocate in the U.S. Army on active and reserve status in numerous roles. Retired at the rank of Colonel.

Adjunct Professor of Law, University of Louisville (2011)

LOUISVILLE | LEXINGTON | INDIANAPOLIS | EVANSVILLE | FRANKFORT

## EXHIBIT 3

## AN ALTERNATIVE COLLABORATION

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## WHERE TWO OR MORE UTILITIES AGREE TO BE MANAGED AND OPERATED BY THE LEAD UTILITY

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## display:block;positic CHARACTERISTICS

EACH UTILITY MAINTAINS ITS AUTONOMY

UTILITY BOARDS CONTINUE TO MAKE ALL DECISIONS

ASSETS REMAIN WITH EACH UTILITY



## ORGANIZATION

- Establish the Lead Utility
- One General Manager
- Develop Joint Utility Committee
  - 1-2 Representatives from each Board
  - General Manager Facilitates agenda
- Review Bylaws, Rules, & Regulations for consistency



## FINANCIAL

- Each Utility pays for services used
  - Job Cost Accounting system
  - Determine Allocations for common

services such as administrative, IT, GM

- Each utility has independent accounts & audits
- Recommend one Billing System



## OPERATIONS

- Consolidate systems
  - SCADA
  - GIS
  - IT & Work Order management
- Evaluate Inventory



## WHAT ABOUT THE MOST IMPORTANT ASSET?

## THE EMPLOYEES

### BEST TO HAVE ALL AS EMPLOYEES OF LEAD UTILITY

Compensation Plan, Benefits, Policies must be uniform

### COMPREHENSIVE ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

Don't compartmentalize by utility – set departments by service provided



## DEVELOPING A JOINT MANAGEMENT AND **OPERATIONS** AGREEMENT

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# JOINT MANAGEMENT AND OPERATIONS AGREEMENT

- L. TERM- 5 YEARS RECOMMENDED
- 2. NO CHANGE IN OWNERSHIP
- 3. EACH BOARD SETS POLICIES, RULES, REGULATIONS, & RATES
- 4. JOINT UTILITY COMMITTEE

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## JOINT MANAGEMENT AND OPERATIONS AGREEMENT (CONTINUED)

- 5. LEAD UTILITY
- 6. GENERAL MANAGER
- 7. COMPENSATION/REIMBURSEMENT
- 8. SERVICES
- 9. TERMINATION

SUMMARY

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- PROVIDES ABILITY TO SHARE EXPERTISE AFFORDABLY
- MAINTAINS IDENTITY OF UTILITY
- DOES NOT FORCE RATE ADJUSTMENTS
- SHARES EQUIPMENT AND RESOURCES

## **QUESTIONS?**

## THANK YOU!



### JOHN M. DIX, P.E.

#### (270)784 - 4823



johnd@warrenwater.com





## **REGULATIONS & NECESSITIES**

### THE LAW IS HOW SAFETY IS WHY

2024 KRWA Management Conference February 21, 2024

## BUT FIRST, A DISCLAIMER...

For general informational purposes only; it is strongly recommended to obtain legal advice from a qualified professional

No legal advice is being provided and any interpretation of the law should not be derived from this information. It is highly suggested to find expert assistance for any specific queries

### WHO DOES KENTUCKY 811 REPRESENT?



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Electric Tra (distribution P and (na transmission)

Transmission Pipelines (natural gas and petroleum) Water and Sewer Telecommunications and Cable

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Government and Municipal

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## Kentucky 811 Company Update

- Addition of two Damage Prevention Managers
- Membership has grown 14% (still voluntary)
- 100% Virtual Operation
- New website and webstore
- Improvements to the magazine, safety summit, and a greater social media presence.

EVERY DIG. EVERY TIME

## **TRANSITION UPDATE**

- Transition to **ORE CALL CONCEPTS** took place Oct. 1, 2022
- ITICnxt Software has improved efficiency and reduced costs
- Almost 80% of inbound tickets are web tickets
- Speed of Answer ~30 seconds
- >1% Tickets returned for correction

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#### TICKET VOLUME UPDATE

- Over 10% increase of inbound volume (2023 v. 2022)
- The largest increase of all SOCS (Southeastern One-Call Systems) states.
- Outbound ticket ratio has gone from 5:1 down to 4:1
- This has resulted in over \$500,000 less in billing costs to members

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## UNDERGROUND FACILITY DAMAGE PREVENTION ACT OF 1994

KRS 367.4901 - 367.4917



## BRIEF HISTORY OF THE LAW

- CREATED IN 1994
- LAW EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 1995
- THE LAW HAS BEEN AMENDED SEVEN TIMES

• KENTUCKY IS THE ONLY STATE OF THE 48 CONTIGUOUS STATE THAT DOES NOT HAVE MANDATORY MEMBERSHIP



## 2022 LAW CHANGES HB - 303

- Positive Response
- Working Day Definition
- Tolerance Zone
- Work Site Contact
- Utility Locate Response Time
- Unmapped or Unlocatable

- Large Projects
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Notice Request
- On-Site EXPOSED FACILITY Request
- Waiver of Liability
- Civil Penalties



"Positive response" is an automated or written communication system provided by each member operator which facilitates the identification of underground facilities by excavators, locators, operators, etc. and obliges operators and excavators to respond and verify to satisfy their respective requirements of the Underground Facility Damage Prevention Act of 1994



"Working Day" is everyday, except weekends and holidays established by federal or state statute. A locate request must be made two days prior to commencement of digging. (ie. Locate request is submitted on Monday, work may not begin until Thursday (after positive response is obtained)



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Work site contact – means an individual that will be present at the excavation site when the excavation will occur

**367.4911 (3) (c)** – Name and phone number of work site contact

#### \*\*\*MUST BE A PERSON PRESENT AT THE WORKSITE\*\*\*

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"Tolerance Zone" is a strip of land at least four (4) feet wide but not wider than the width of the underground facility plus two (2) feet on either side of the outer limits of the facility

\*\*\*Nonintrusive excavating methods may be used\*\*\*



#### SAVE TIME, GO ONLINE!

Whether you're a homeowner or a professional excavator, Kentucky811.org is the quickest way to submit your dig request.



\*\*\*Penalties – CIVIL\*\*\*



A violation shall be considered a first if more than one year has lapsed since the last incident

If a person commits a violation in the course and scope of employment, the penalties are imposed on the employer

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#### DEFINITIONS KRS 367.4903

(5) "Operator" means any entity or individual owning or operating underground facilities to serve the public, but does not include any entity or individual owning or operating underground storage tanks

(8) "Protection Notification Center" means an operator-provided notification center through which an excavator can contact the operator to enable the operator to provide the excavator with the approximate location of underground facilities.

(9) "Kentucky Contact Center" means Kentucky Underground Protection, Inc., (KY 811) organized as a nonprofit corporation and a multimember protection notification center providing a single telephone contact number and designated by the Kentucky Public Service Commission to be the sole recipient of 811 dialed calls through which an excavator may contact all Kentucky Contact Center members and all affected member operators may receive information to enable them to provide the excavator with the approximate location of underground facilities.

### **OPERATOR COMPLIANCE**

#### Per KRS 367.4909

(1) Each operator shall provide protection notification center access to excavators.

(2) Voluntary operator membership in the Kentucky Contact Center shall satisfy the requirement of subsection (1) in this section.



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#### **DUTIES OF PROTECTION NOTIFICATION CENTER**

#### KRS 367.4913 (1) – All protection notification centers SHALL:

(a) Provide locate request services during working days and provide an emergency contact number for incidents occurring outside the working day

(b) Provide a positive response system to all parties to determine the status of locating an underground facility

(c) Provide any excavation request with an identification number and the names of the facility owners or operators who will be notified

(g) Define and adopt policies and procedures for processing design information requests

(h) Provide the person making a design information request a list of identified operators that will receive notification

## DUTIES OF PROTECTION NOTIFICATION CENTER

KRS 367.4913 (1) – All protection notification centers SHALL:

- (i) Maintain the following information provided by excavators for all requests to locate facilities for at least five (5) years from the date of the request:
  - 1. Name and phone number of the excavator or person requesting the underground facility locate;
  - 2. Location and type of work being performed by the excavator;
  - 3. Name and phone number of work site contact;
  - 4. Name, address, and phone number of underground facility operators; and
  - 5. Estimated start date and start time of excavation;

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## DUTIES OF PROTECTION NOTIFICATION CENTER

KRS 367.4913 (1) – All protection notification centers SHALL:

(j) Provide contact information for the protection notification center on its Web site or pursuant to paragraph (e) of this subsection;

(k) Provide public awareness education and damage prevention programs in the manner and amount determined by each protection notification center.



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#### **ENFORCEMENT AND PENALTIES**

Per KRS 367.4917

(2) A protection notification center that fails to comply with any provision of KRS 367.4913 shall be subject to a civil penalty of \$1,000 for each violation.

(6) (7) (8) The commission (PSC) shall have statewide authority to enforce and assess civil penalties...and to seek injunctive relief for any violation that results in damage to an underground facility used to transport gas or hazardous liquid subject to the federal pipeline safety laws. Commission shall make available on its website a written agreement form for an operator and an excavator to agree to a date or series of dates by which time the locate request must be completed if different from dates established by KRS 367.4909. The commission may promulgate administrative regulations in accordance with KRS Chapter 13A to enforce the Underground Facility Damage Prevention Act of 1994.

#### **ENFORCEMENT AND PENALTIES**

Per KRS 367.4917

(5)(c) Failure to comply with the provisions of the Underground Facility Damage Prevention Act of 1994 (KRS 367.4901 – 367.4917), may be determined at the conclusion of an investigation and shall be based on evidence available to state, county, or city officials, law enforcement, or fire protection agencies which issue the citation.

What does this mean?

State, County, and City law enforcement or fire protection agencies can initiate investigations or take enforcement action or violations, unless the PSC has already initiated an investigation or undertakes enforcement action.

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#### CGA BEST PRACTICES GUIDE VER. 19.0



COMMON Ground Alliance

#### KENTUCKY 811 MAGAZINE



Read or download all editions at <u>www.kentucky811.org</u>

# KENTUCKY damage prevention

#### A CGA REGIONAL PARTNER EVENT

June 25-27, 2024 Embassy Suites, Lexington





pdonoghue@ky811.com



jgaddis@ky811.com

## **QUESTIONS?**

• RESOURCES:

• WWW.KENTUCKY811.ORG

• <u>HTTPS://COMMONGROUNDALLIANCE.COM</u>

• <u>HTTPS://WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/@OCCINCVIDEOS/VIDE</u>

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## THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME!

Tim Vaughn – Executive Director – tvaughn@ky811.com

Jamie Gaddis – Damage Prevention Manager (Central & Eastern Region) – jgaddis@ky811.com

Patrick Donoghue – Damage Prevention Manager (Western Region) – pdonoghue@ky811.com

502-266-5677



### PRACTICAL SUGGESTIONS FOR SEEKING A GENERAL RATE ADJUSTMENT FROM THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

FEBRUARY 21, 2024

Gerald Wuetcher Stoll Keenon Ogden PLLC gerald.wuetcher@skofirm.com (859) 231-3017



## Order of Presentation

- Planning Considerations
- Before Starting Preparation of the Application
- Preparing the Application
- Addressing Requests for Information
- Staff Report/Hearing
- Final Order and Beyond



## PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS



## When To File For Adjustment

- PSC Directive
- Periodic Filings (3 5 Years)
- Utility's Financial Condition
  - Rates Generating Sufficient Revenues?
  - Ability to Meet Debt Obligations
  - Net Losses vs. Positive Cash Flow



## **Revenue Requirements**

#### CASH NEEDS METHOD (Rural Development) Operating Expenses + Principal + Interest + WC

#### **PSC METHOD – Water Districts**

Operating Expenses + Principal + Interest + Depreciation Expense + WC

UTILITY METHOD (IOUs)

Operating Expenses + Interest + Depreciation Expense + ROI



## Difference in Approaches

- Cash Needs: CapEx recovered through Principal (No Depreciation Recovery)
- Utility Approach: CapEx recovered through Depreciation
- PSC Method (WD): CapEx over-recovered thru Principal AND Depreciation



## Significance of Depreciation

"[D]epreciation is the loss, not restored by current maintenance, which is due to all the factors causing the ultimate retirement of the property. These factors embrace wear and tear, decay, inadequacy, and obsolescence. Annual depreciation is the loss which takes place in a year. In determining reasonable rates for supplying public service, it is proper to include ... an allowance for consumption of capital ... "

Lindheimer v. Illinois Bell Tele. Co., 292 U.S. 151, 167 (1934)



## Effect of Depreciation: Example

- Assumptions:
  - Asset Purchase Price: \$1,000,000
  - Loan Principal: \$1,000,000
  - Loan Term: 40 years
  - Interest Rate: 3%
  - Asset Useful Service Life: 50 years
  - Asset Salvage Value: None
  - Annual Depreciation Expense: \$20,000



## Effect of Depreciation: Example

Approach	Principal	Interest	Deprecation	Total Revenue Requirement	Recovery Period
Cash Method	\$1,000,000	\$719,330	\$0	\$1,719,330	40 years
Utility Method	\$0	\$719,330	\$1,000,000	\$1,719,330	50 years
PSC Method (Water District)	\$1,000,000	\$719,330	\$1,000,000	\$2,719,330	50 years

#### PSC Method Generates An Additional \$1,000,000



## **Timing Considerations**

- Rates that fail to generate sufficient cash to meet Cash Needs will result in default – Immediate Action Required
- PSC Approach: Apply for adjustment when rates fail to generate revenues required by PSC Method
- Suggestion: When rates fail to generate level required by PSC Approach – Warning to Begin Work on Application



## Planning for Rate Adjustment

- Continuous monitoring of financial condition and need for rate adjustment
- Incorporate ARF Forms SAO-W and RR-DC into planning and to assess financial condition
- Prepare Projections 2X yearly short-term and long-term projections
- Projections should include known/expected adjustments
  - Document results & discussion with Board <sup>11</sup>



## Planning for Rate Adjustment

- Document results & discussion with Board
- Consider Periodic Filings to Reduce Rate Shock and Increase Customer Acceptance
- Consider Phasing-In Rate Adjustment to allow for more gradual increases



## **Pre-Application Preparations**



## What Type of Application?

- Alternative Rate Filing
- Application Under PSC Rules of Procedure
- RD-Financing Statute
- Purchased Water Adjustment


# Who Will Prepare Application?

- Type of Application
- Cost-of-Service Study Required
- Complexity of Issues/Adjustments
- Familiarity/Experience of Utility Staff with Ratemaking/KPSC Precedent



Selecting Consultant: Factors to Consider

- Accounting/Ratemaking Experience
- Familiarity with KPSC Methodology/ Ratemaking Practices/ Precedent
- Past work before KPSC
- KPSC treatment of Past Work



# Is An Attorney Required?

- ARF Filings Do Not Require Attorney
- Required for Applications Under 807 KAR 5:001
- What are Expected Issues?
- Familiarity with KPSC Methodology/ Ratemaking Practices/Precedent
- Role of An Attorney



#### **PREPARING THE APPLICATION**



# Preparing the Application

- Follow PSC Methodology
- Need for Cost-of-Service Study
- Need for Written Testimony
- Cost Allocations
- Provide Additional Supporting Materials
- Identifying Supporting Witnesses (ARF Applications)



# Preparing the Application

- Timing Concerns
- Requesting Lower Revenue Requirement



### Adjustments

- Make Adjustments to Reflect Known & Measurable Changes Regardless of Effect on Revenue Requirement
- Evaluate likelihood of Acceptance
- Proof for Proposed Adjustment
- Timing



# Types of Adjustments

- Wages
- Increase Insurance/Pension/Fringe Benefits
- Property Insurance
- New Construction to be placed into Service
- Purchased Power
- Unusual Expenses
- Rate Case Expenses



### **Contested Issues**

- Employer Contribution for Health Insurance
- Commissioner Fringe Benefits
- Donations
- Employee Bonuses
- Excessive Wage Increases
- Useful Lives of Utility Assets
- Excessive Water Loss



### Skeletons In the Closet

- Debt Issuances Not Authorized
- Chargining Unfiled/Unauthorized Rates
- Construction without CPCNs
- Derogatory Comments in Board Minutes
- Open Meeting Issues
- Nepotism/Non-Arms-Length Transactions
- Improper/Unlawful/Embarrassing
  Expenditures



### **Skeletons In the Closet**

- Responses:
  - Make adjustments to test period expenses to remove unlawful/embarrassing expenditures
  - Correct Problems and Note the Corrections Taken when questioned
  - Report violations prior to filing application



# Packaging The Application

- Make the Application easy to navigate/use
- Use Bookmarks
- Paginate Exhibits
- Hyperlinks
- Prepare an Index for Application
- Include Built-in Index for Quick Searching
- Provide Spreadsheets for Exhibits based on Spreadsheets



### **REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION**



# Responding To Requests for Information

- Expect Extensive Requests
- Answer Requests Directly
- Provide Context for Your Responses/Do not assume knowledge of past history
- Use Response to Buttress Position
- Request Clarification when necessary



# **STAFF REPORT/HEARING**



- Read Report Carefully
- Identify Any Errors in Report's Calculations or Assumptions
- Identify Proposed Staff Adjustments with which Utility Disagrees
- Identify the Effect of Those Adjustments on Requested Revenue Requirement



- Before contesting any proposed Staff adjustment, considered the cost of delay in final decision vs. the revenue at issue and likelihood of successfully challenging
- If cost of delay is greater or challenge unlikely to succeed, accept the recommended revenue requirement level but . . .



- Accept only the recommended revenue requirement level and reserve right to contest the remaining issues in future proceedings
- If Staff proposes a higher level of revenue than utility proposed, notice of acceptance must be published in newspaper of general circulation
- Requesting a hearing on disputed issues will generally result in extensive delay



- If disputed issue is factual or resulted from "lack of evidence," consider submitting additional evidence as part of response and requesting a conference with staff to provide additional proof
- Request a hearing on disputed issues only if utility has witnesses to support its position



- Request that any hearing be limited to the disputed issue
- Water Loss Surcharges





# **Preparation for Hearing**

- (Application Under 807 KAR 5:001) Assume Hearing Will Not Be Limited to Issues
   Presented in Rate Application
- Witness should limit their testimony to the issues to which he/she provided testimony or response to information request



# **Preparation for Hearing**

Prepare Witnesses for their testimony (Mock hearing)





### FINAL ORDER AND BEYOND



# **Final Order**

- Carefully review Final Order
- Review calculations and assumptions in the Order for errors/misstatements
- Confirm that the approved rates will produce the determined revenue requirement
- Phase-In of Rates not requested



# **Final Order**

Application for Rehearing must be filed within
 23 days of date of final order



# **QUESTIONS?**



# **Contact Information:**

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#### THE IMPORTANCE OF CYBERSECURITY

Matt Folker - ISTT. Inc.





Bowling Green KY

Established in 2003

Managed IT and Cyber Security

Local Datacenter

Serve the state of Kentucky and surrounding areas

#### MEET THE TEAM



Matt Folker Cyber Security and Compliance

12 Years with ISTT, Inc. Married with 3 Boys

Huge Miami Dolphins Fan



David Mantlo President/Owner Started Company in 2003 Married with 4 Kids

Loves Hiking



Nicole Jewell Chief Operations Officer 13 Years with ISTT, Inc. Married with 2 Kids Award Winning Declutter

#### Manufacturing Plant in Bowling Green KY

This story is real.

Cyber Security Event in 2021

Staff names have been changed to protect their privacy

"Bill" – Company President who is about to retire

"Sarah" – Incoming company President

"Tom" – CFO

"Eric" – On Site IT Guy

#### TODAY'S TARGET COMPANY X

#### DAY ZERO – FRIDAY AUGUST $20^{TH}$ , 2021





Windows 7 End of Life Date: January 14, 2020

#### DAY ZERO – FRIDAY AUGUST $20^{TH}$ , 2021

S SonicWALL Glo	bal VPN Client	
<u>File V</u> iew <u>H</u> elp		0
🖻 ≱ 🖪 🗙 🍬 📽 🖌 🚳 🕲		
Name	△ Peer	Status
GroupVPN Berlin	ber-vpn.example.org	Connected
👍 GroupVPN Müncher	n muc-vpn.example.org	Disabled
1.00		
For Help, press F1		11







#### DAY ONE – SATURDAY AUGUST $21^{ST}$ , 2021

531C5D-Readme - Notepad File Edit Format View Help Hi! Your files are encrypted. All encrypted files for this computer has extension: .531c5d If for some reason you read this text before the encryption ended, this can be understood by the fact that the computer slows down, and your heart rate has increased due to the ability to turn it off. then we recommend that you move away from the computer and accept that you have been compromised. Rebooting/shutdown will cause you to lose files without the possibility of recovery. Our encryption algorithms are very strong and your files are very well protected, the only way to get your files back is to cooperate with us and get the decrypter program. Do not try to recover your files without a decrypter program, you may damage them and then they will be impossible to recover. For us this is just business and to prove to you our seriousness, we will decrypt you one file for free. Just open our website, upload the encrypted file and get the decrypted file for free. Steps to get access on our website: Download and install tor-browser: https://torproject.org/ Open our website: rnfdsgm6wb6j6su5txkekw4u4y47kp2eatvu7d6xhyn5cs4lt4pdrqqd.onion 3. Put your personal code in the input form: code\_531c5d: Q9r6nfG0+9ECwBRNhArcU777p40ymsAG7ISHhMXC8oZJAFoicQ 5aOgr00c2zr1dy8xU4ewt059rDZupugr1xnbgemuxeJj0J0o4I +CDuTV7KrM6WS3XwFywAwBVljL0B77ťLiWP+ľnqlT/rx7hprAG

/ihJUr28KGOCbKZ/IQ3q05uT9IEniqaOPaBL3Pd/0IXtexR/2k



#### INTERNET? Down. Down. EMAIL? Down. **PRODUCTION?** SHIPPING? Down. **RECEIVING?** Down. **PAYROLL?** Down.








NO CONTRACT 3<sup>RD</sup> PARTY IT No Answer

#### BACKUP VENDOR

No Answer

ISTT, INC

Help is on the way!



#### DAY TWO – SUNDAY AUGUST 22, 2021

Cyber Security and Business Interruption Insurance

\$1 Million in Cyber Insurance

\$3 Million in Business Interruption

#### How long will it take to burn through \$4 Million?

#### COSTS

New Servers	\$152,124.84
New Network Equipment	\$137,397.76
New Computers	\$110,280.64
Install Labor	\$158,725.00
Total	\$558,528.24



ATTORNEY FEES	\$\$\$
FORENSIC	\$\$\$
LOST ORDERS	\$\$\$
LOST CUSTOMERS	\$\$\$
> CUSTOMER TRUST	\$\$\$
DATA LOSS FINES	\$\$\$

#### DAY THREE - MONDAY AUGUST 23, 2021

Not your usual Monday morning...

Leadership Team decides to send production workers back home

Shipping Team is to send out pending orders then go home when they run out of orders

No ETA is given to employees on when they can return to work, all because the backups are slow downloading.

#### So, What happened?

Bill, the outgoing president, was phished.

His Windows 7 computer was then compromised

Since the old Windows 7 computer was connected via VPN, the attackers were able to connect to the main site

Attackers were able to bruit force the password for the user "backup" which had admin rights

Attackers uploaded data to offsite servers

Attackers encrypted files on their way out

#### Phishing

What is Phishing?

- Phishing is a way to have a user type in their passwords to a fake web site.
- Users click on an email link that takes them to a malicious site.
- The malicious site sends user's input back to the criminal.
- Most people use the same password for multiple sites.

#### Outdated Windows/Software

Why is updating software so important?

- Microsoft gives out date's years in advance on when an OS will no longer receive security updates
- Cyber Security teams look for vulnerabilities in 3<sup>rd</sup> party software and Windows
- Old versions of Office support micros which can be used to get remote access from an attacker

#### Ransomware

What is Ransomware?

- Once an attacker is inside your network, they steal data.
- Once data is stolen, the attacker destroys the data on your network and/or servers.
- You must restore from backup or pay the ransom to get your data back.

#### Ransomware

How do I prevent ransomware?

- Email Spam Filters
- Up to date AV
- Zero Trust Application Controls
- Next Generation Firewalls (NGFW)
- End User Training

Secure Remote Access

2FA and VPN

- Who has access to what remotely?
- 2FA something you know and something you have
- VPN connects to a remote network, but that doesn't mean its secure

#### Backups

Aren't all backups the same?

- Did you purchase a backup or a recovery plan?
- What is the recovery time objective?
- What is the recovery point objective?

#### THE AFTERMATH

Restoration of all off-site backups took one month Production resumed 3 weeks after the attack Company X is now under attack every day since they were breached once before. Insurance Costs are now 10x what they were before. Revenue was down for the next 2 years



#### THANK YOU

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## Utility Consolidation Through Merger or Acquisition

Robert K. Miller Kentucky Rural Water Association February 2024



## Recommended Step-by-Step Approach for Evaluating Potential Utility Consolidation



## **Defining Merger and Acquisition**



- Merger utilities combine to <u>form a new utility</u>.
- New utility <u>carries assets</u> <u>and liabilities</u> of predecessor utilities.
- Acquisition utility purchases another utility and <u>acquired utility no</u> <u>longer exists</u> as a legal entity.
- Acquiring utility <u>purchases</u> <u>only assets</u> leaving acquired utility to resolve liabilities before dissolving.

## **Utility Consolidation Rationale**

# Why sell system or merge with another system?

- Regulations
- Lower rates for customers
- Mandate from elected officials or PSC



## Utility Consolidation Rationale

## Why buy or merge with another system?

- Grow the retail service to increase sales revenues
- Economies of scale to spread expenses
- Transmission corridor to growth area
- <u>Mandate</u> from elected officials or PSC

To ensure that the consolidation supports the intended objectives,

#### the utilities should perform an assessment

to establish the conditions to be met

before proceeding with consolidation

### Condition #1

Systems should meet same service standards or have plans to bring them up to same standards



### Condition #2

#### Consolidation must be in best interests of customers of both systems





Service quality maintained or improved Future rates same or lower than if consolidation did not occur

## **Condition #3**

Existing service area boundaries of systems are clearly defined





### **Condition #4**

Acquiring system <u>recovers cost of</u> <u>acquisition from benefiting</u> <u>customers, supplemented by Federal</u> <u>and State funds where available,</u> within specified time

## **Condition #5**

#### Customers of consolidated systems allowed same rates within specified time



Step-by-Step Methodology for Evaluating a Potential Consolidation

.39-6

6.0

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18754.

18752

18742.

## I. Identify and Evaluate System Records

- Service rules and rates
- Asset records
- O&M and compliance records
- Personnel policies, pay rates, and benefits
- Personnel roster



### I. Identify and Evaluate System Records

- Board Minutes
- Contracts
- Debt documents and bank statements
- Software suppliers



## II. Assess System Condition

- Immediate maintenance needs
- Requirements to address system deficiencies
- Anticipated infrastructure replacement needs
- Requirements for foreseeable growth

## III. Establish Financial Value of Liabilities

- Investments identified in condition assessment
- Outstanding debt
- Capital commitments
- Unserved area liability





## IV. Establish Financial Value of Assets

- Utility Plant valued considering condition and maintenance history
- Cash reserves and investments at market value
- Value of future growth can be considered

### V. Establish Rate Capacity to Conduct Consolidation

Rate capacity defined as

difference between the systems rates

multiplied by future water sales volume

reduced by expenses



## V. Establish Rate Capacity to Conduct Consolidation

- a) Value of future water sales by year in excess of expenses, <u>holding acquired rates constant</u>
- b) Value of future water sales by year in excess of expenses, <u>assuming normal increases in acquiring</u> <u>system rates</u>
- c) Rate capacity is difference of (a) and (b)

#### VI. Establish Purchase Price

16.

15.7

13

M

C

22

20

2 Ari

24.

22

20

9

8

672

2,276

25.41

18,17

3.654

23.31

55,32

55.32

9,220

31,42

32,42

31,42

 Based on value of future revenues in excess of expenses <u>and</u> value as transmission area to growth

00.000

 If acquisition is mandated, then purchase price should be zero

## **VII. Determine Resolution of Outstanding Debt**



- Compute refinancing of existing debt and purchase price
- Identify unsatisfactory debt covenants in acquired system

## VIII. Determine Anticipated Year For Rate Equalization

Anticipated year for rate equalization occurs when *revenue stream being acquired* equals *liability stream being incurred* 

Cash + Rate Capacity = Debt + Capital Requirements + Purchase Price

If computed year is acceptable, then the deal can proceed with implementation



## **IX. Negotiate Contract for Transfer of Ownership**

<u>**Buyer covenants</u>** use of acquired funds, service rules and regulations, timing for rate equalization, basis for rate increases, and access to board of directors</u>

<u>Seller representations and warranties</u> title and authority, financial statements, litigation, environmental matters, and system boundaries



## X. Prepare for Closing Deal Acquired System

✓ Bill of sale

- ✓ List of assets to be transferred
- Customer list
- Inventory list
- Maps
- Assignment of easements
- Opinion letter of counsel
- ✓ PSC order approving sale, if applicable

## X. Prepare for Closing the Deal Acquiring System

- ✓ Certified check or wire transfer
- Board resolution authorizing purchase and assumption of obligations
- Opinion letter of counsel
- Termination of previous agreement



## XI. Prepare for Implementation

- Billing records
- Asset identification references
- Pipeline and service maps
- Maintenance records
- Easement documents

### **XI.** Prepare for Implementation

- Develop customer information
- Communicate with fire districts
- Communicate with sewer districts
- Notify payment processors

## Getting Started



Build understanding with governing boards of key issues involved with consolidation



Direct staff to begin evaluation methodology



Set a targeted completion date



Assign each component steps of evaluation methodology to specific person

# Questions?