

8/28/2025

RESPONSE TO THE ALLEGATIONS CONTAINED IN THE 8/15/25 ORDER IN PSC CASE
25-233.

My position is and always has been to at all times operate with integrity and in compliance with all applicable laws and with the Kentucky Public Service Commission.

Until I was personally served with this Case, I was not aware of any allegation(s) that Southern violated any statute, including specifically KRS 278.160. The subject of instituting a "disconnect" charge was not brought to the attention of the Board of Commissioners at any time, as reflected in Southern's minutes.

After being served with this action and making a cursory investigation, it appears as though this entire case is based upon a misunderstanding of the semantics regarding the fee associated with disconnecting water services. As you are aware, U.M.G. is responsible for the daily operations of Southern and may have more detailed information regarding this issue. I do not have any direct personal knowledge regarding the institution and/or collection of a "disconnect" charge as I was not informed of this fee until this case was filed.

I do not dispute the factual allegation that a "disconnect/turn-off" charge was not included in Southern's Tariff. I do take issue with any allegation(s) that I willfully aided and abetted in any violation(s) of any law, specifically including KRS 278.160.

I anticipate that a revised tariff sheet, including all fees charged/collected by Southern, should be e-filed with the P.S.C. by the middle of September 2025 in Case 2024-251.

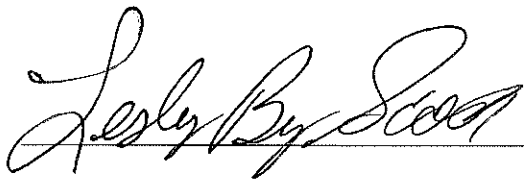
I appreciate the PSC bringing this issue to my attention and have counseled UMG and our administrative staff that no fee/charge shall be collected that is not specifically listed in Southern's current Tariff. I welcome any advice the PSC may have in continuing to operate Southern Water in compliance with all applicable rules and regulations.

We as a board have discussed the best way to resolve the issue and we have advised UMG and Southern Staff of the importance of not collecting any charges that are not explicitly listed on our tariff but would also be grateful for any guidance from the PSC to ensure this issue is resolved.

I feel it is an honor to serve as Commissioner to the customers of Southern Water. I became a board member on July 22nd, 2024. As the newest member I am still learning all the rules and regulations. It is my understanding this issue arose (start of collection of " disconnect " fee) around August of 2022, which was around 2 years prior to my appointment. I look forward to working with the PSC in the future.

CERTIFICATION

This response is true and accurate to the best of the preparer's (Lesley Byron Scott) knowledge, information and belief after reasonable inquiry.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Lesley Byron Scott", written over a horizontal line.

Date

A handwritten date "8/22/2025" written in cursive script over a horizontal line.

Lesley Byron Scott
Commissioner, Southern Water.