

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of:

ELECTRONIC APPLICATION OF MARTIN)	CASE NO.
COUNTY WATER DISTRICT FOR AN)	2021-00154
ALTERNATIVE RATE ADJUSTMENT)	

ORDER

On April 8, 2021, Martin County Water District (Martin District) filed an application, pursuant to 807 KAR 5:076, requesting to adjust its monthly water service rates.

The Commission finds that a procedural schedule¹ should be established to ensure the orderly review of Martin District's application. The procedural schedule is attached as an Appendix to this Order.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that:

1. The procedural schedule set forth in the Appendix to this Order, which is attached hereto and incorporated herein, shall be followed.
2. a. Responses to requests for information shall be appropriately bound, tabbed and indexed, with the original and an electronic version to the Commission. The Commission expects the original documents to be filed with the Commission within 30 days of the lifting of the current state of emergency. Electronic documents shall be in portable document format (PDF), shall be searchable, and shall be appropriately

¹ No action is necessary to suspend the effective date of Martin District's proposed rates for service. Pursuant to 807 KAR 5:076, Section 7(1), an applicant who applies for a rate adjustment pursuant to the procedures set for in 807 KAR 5:076 may not place its proposed rates into effect until the Commission approves those rates or six months from the date of the filing of its application.

bookmarked. Each response shall include the name of the witness responsible for responding to the questions related to the information provided.

b. Each response shall be answered under oath or, for representatives of a public or private corporation or a partnership or an association or a governmental agency, be accompanied by a signed certification of the preparer or person supervising the preparation of the response on behalf of the entity that the response is true and accurate to the best of that person's knowledge, information, and belief formed after a reasonable inquiry.

c. A party shall make timely amendment to any prior response if it obtains information that indicates the response was incorrect when made or, though correct when made, is now incorrect in any material respect.

d. For any request to which a party fails or refuses to furnish all or part of the requested information, that party shall provide a written explanation of the specific grounds for its failure to completely and precisely respond.

e. Careful attention should be given to copied material to ensure that it is legible. When the requested information has been previously provided in this proceeding in the requested format, reference may be made to the specific location of that information in responding to this request.

f. Any party filing a paper containing personal information shall, in accordance with 807 KAR 5:001, Section 4(10), encrypt or redact the paper so that the personal information cannot be read.

3. In addition to the procedural schedule set forth in the Appendix, no later than July 22, 2021, Commission Staff shall file with the Commission and serve upon all

parties of record a written report (Staff Report) containing its findings and recommendations regarding Martin District's requested rate adjustment.

4. No later than 14 days after the date of the filing of the Commission Staff Report, each party of record shall file with the Commission:

a. Its written comments on and any objections to the findings contained in the Commission Staff Report; and

b. Any additional evidence for the Commission to consider.

5. If Commission Staff finds that Martin District's financial condition supports a higher rate than Martin District proposes or the assessment of an additional rate or charge not proposed in Martin District's application, Martin District in its response to the Commission Staff Report shall also state its position in writing on whether the Commission should authorize the assessment of the higher rate or the additional rate or charge.

6. If Commission Staff finds that changes should be made to the manner in which Martin District accounts for the depreciation of Martin District's assets, Martin District in its response to the Commission Staff Report shall also state its position in writing on whether the Commission should require Martin District to implement the proposed change for accounting purposes.

7. A party's failure to file written objections to a finding contained in the Commission Staff Report within 14 days after the date of the filing of the Commission Staff Report shall be deemed a waiver of all objections to that finding.

8. If a party requests a hearing or informal conference, then the party shall make the request in its written comments and state the reason why a hearing or informal conference is necessary.

9. A party's failure to request a hearing or informal conference in the party's written response shall be deemed a waiver of all rights to a hearing on the application and a request that the case stand submitted for decision.

10. A party's failure to file a written response within 14 days after the date of the filing of the Staff Report shall be deemed a waiver of all rights to a hearing on the application.

11. As set forth in 807 KAR 5:001, Section 4(11)(a), a person requesting permissive intervention in a Commission proceeding is required to demonstrate either (1) a special interest in the proceeding which is not adequately represented in the case, or (2) that the person requesting permissive intervention is likely to present issues or develop facts that will assist the Commission in fully considering the matter without unduly complicating or disrupting the proceedings. Further, KRS 278.040(2) requires that a person seeking intervention must have an interest in the rates or service of a utility, as those are the only matters that are subject to the Commission's jurisdiction. Therefore, any person requesting to intervene in a Commission proceeding must state with specificity the person's special interest that is not otherwise adequately represented or the issues and facts the person will present that will assist the Commission in fully considering the matter. A mere recitation of the quantity of water consumed by the movant or a general statement regarding a potential impact of possible modification of rates will not be deemed sufficient to establish a special interest. In addition, any motion

to intervene filed after the date established in the procedural schedule attached as an Appendix to this Order shall also show good cause for being untimely. If the untimely motion is granted, the movant shall accept and abide by the existing procedural schedule.

12. A hearing in this matter shall be held on May 27, 2021, at 9 a.m. Eastern Daylight Time, via video conferencing link, in the Richard Raff Hearing Room at the offices of the Public Service Commission at 211 Sower Boulevard, Frankfort, Kentucky to take evidence for Martin District's request for emergency rate relief. Martin District Commissioners, Jimmy Don Kerr and Earnest Hale; general manager, Craig Miller; and Director of Operations for Alliance Water Resources, James Anthony Sneed shall appear virtually for the video conference.

13. Martin District shall give notice of the hearing in compliance with 807 KAR 5:001, Section 9(2)(b). In addition, the notice of hearing shall include the following statement: "This hearing will be streamed live and may be viewed on the PSC website, psc.ky.gov"; and "Public comments may be made at the beginning of the hearing. Those wishing to make oral public comments may do so by following the instructions listed on the PSC website, psc.ky.gov." At the time the notice is mailed or publication is requested, Martin District shall forward a duplicate of the notice and request to the Commission.

14. Pursuant to KRS 278.360 and 807 KAR 5:001, Section 9(9), a digital video transcript shall be made of the hearing.

15. Commission Staff will contact the parties to provide instruction for participating in the videoconference hearing.

16. The Commission directs the parties to the Commission’s March 16, 2020 and March 24, 2020 Orders in Case No. 2020-00085² regarding filings with the Commission. The Commission expects the original documents to be filed with the Commission within 30 days of the lifting of the current state of emergency.

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² Case No. 2020-00085, *Electronic Emergency Docket Related to the Novel Coronavirus COVID-19* (Ky. PSC Mar. 16, 2020), Order at 5–6. Case No. 2020-00085, *Electronic Emergency Docket Related to the Novel Coronavirus COVID-19* (Ky. PSC Mar. 24, 2020), Order at 1–3.

By the Commission



ATTEST:



Executive Director

APPENDIX

APPENDIX TO AN ORDER OF THE KENTUCKY PUBLIC SERVICE
COMMISSION IN CASE NO. 2021-00154 DATED APR 14 2021

Requests for intervention shall be filed no later than.....04/23/2021

All requests for information to Martin District
shall be filed no later than 05/06/2021

Martin District shall file responses to requests
for information no later than 05/20/2021

Hearing for emergency rate relief.....05/27/2021

All supplemental requests for information to
Martin District shall be filed no later than..... 06/10/2021

Martin District shall file responses to supplemental
requests for information no later than..... 06/24/2021

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