

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY  
BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of:

ELECTRONIC APPLICATION OF WEST LAUREL )	CASE NO.
WATER ASSOCIATION, INC. FOR A RATE )	2022-00120
ADJUSTMENT PURSUANT TO 807 KAR 5:076 )	

ORDER

On April 14, 2022, West Laurel Water Association, Inc. (West Laurel Water) filed an application, pursuant to 807 KAR 5:076, requesting to adjust its monthly water service rates.

The Commission finds that a procedural schedule<sup>1</sup> is established to ensure the orderly review of West Laurel Water’s application. The procedural schedule is attached as Appendix A to this Order.

In addition, West Laurel Water shall file on or before the date set forth in the procedural schedule its responses to the Commission Staff’s First Request for Information, attached to this Order as Appendix B.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that:

1. The procedural schedule set forth in Appendix A to this Order shall be followed.

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<sup>1</sup> No action is necessary to suspend the effective date of West Laurel Water’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.

2. On or before the date set forth in the procedural schedule, West Laurel Water shall file its responses to the Commission's Staff's First Request for Information, attached to this Order as Appendix B.

3. No later than the date set forth in the procedural schedule, Commission Staff shall file with the Commission and serve upon all parties of record a written report (Commission Staff's Report) containing its findings and recommendations regarding West Laurel Water's requested rate adjustment.

4. No later than 14 days after the date of the filing of the Commission Staff's 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's Report; and

b. Any additional evidence for the Commission to consider.

5. If Commission Staff finds that West Laurel Water's financial condition supports a higher rate than West Laurel Water proposes or the assessment of an additional rate or charge not proposed in West Laurel Water's application, West Laurel Water in its response to the Commission Staff's 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 West Laurel Water accounts for the depreciation of West Laurel Water's assets, West Laurel Water in its response to the Commission Staff's Report shall also state its position in writing on whether the Commission should require West Laurel Water 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's Report within 14 days after the date of the filing of the Commission Staff's 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 Commission Staff's 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 that 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 Appendix A 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.

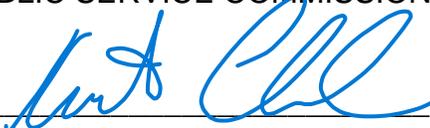
12. The Commission directs the parties to the Commission's July 22, 2021 Order in Case No. 2020-00085<sup>2</sup> regarding filings with the Commission.

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<sup>2</sup> Case No. 2020-00085, *Electronic Emergency Docket Related to the Novel Coronavirus COVID-19* (Ky. PSC July 22, 2021), Order (in which the Commission ordered that for case filings made on and after March 16, 2020, filers are NOT required to file the original physical copies of the filings required by 807 KAR 5:001, Section 8).

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman

\_\_\_\_\_  
Vice Chairman

\_\_\_\_\_  
Commissioner

ENTERED  
MAY 02 2022  
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KENTUCKY PUBLIC  
SERVICE COMMISSION

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Executive Director

APPENDIX A

APPENDIX TO AN ORDER OF THE KENTUCKY PUBLIC SERVICE  
COMMISSION IN CASE NO. 2022-00120 DATED MAY 02 2022

Requests for intervention shall be filed no later than .....5/9/2022

All requests for information to West Laurel Water  
shall be filed no later than .....5/16/2022

West Laurel Water shall file responses to requests  
for information no later than .....6/7/2022

All supplemental requests for information to  
West Laurel Water shall be filed no later than.....6/21/2022

West Laurel Water shall file responses to supplemental  
requests for information no later than .....7/13/2022

Commission Staff's Report shall be filed no later than.....8/24/2022

## APPENDIX B

APPENDIX TO AN ORDER OF THE KENTUCKY PUBLIC SERVICE  
COMMISSION IN CASE NO. 2022-00120 DATED MAY 02 2022

### COMMISSION STAFF'S FIRST REQUEST FOR INFORMATION TO WEST LAUREL WATER ASSOCIATION, INC.

West Laurel Water Association, Inc. (West Laurel Water), pursuant to 807 KAR 5:001, is to file with the Commission an electronic version of the following information. The information requested is due on June 2, 2022. The Commission directs West Laurel Water to the Commission's July 22, 2021 Order in Case No. 2020-00085<sup>1</sup> regarding filings with the Commission. Electronic documents shall be in portable document format (PDF), shall be searchable, and shall be appropriately bookmarked.

Each response shall include the question to which the response is made and shall include the name of the witness responsible for responding to the questions related to the information provided. Each response shall be answered under oath or, for representatives of a public or private corporation or a partnership or association or a governmental agency, be accompanied by a signed certification of the preparer or the 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.

West Laurel Water shall make timely amendment to any prior response if West Laurel Water obtains information that indicates the response was incorrect when made or, though correct when made, is now incorrect in any material respect. For any request

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<sup>1</sup> Case No. 2020-00085, *Electronic Emergency Docket Related to the Novel Coronavirus COVID-19* (Ky. PSC July 22, 2021), Order (in which the Commission ordered that for case filings made on and after March 16, 2020, filers are NOT required to file the original physical copies of the filings required by 807 KAR 5:001, Section 8).

to which West Laurel Water fails or refuses to furnish all or part of the requested information, West Laurel Water shall provide a written explanation of the specific grounds for its failure to completely and precisely respond.

Careful attention shall 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. When applicable, the requested information shall be separately provided for total company operations and jurisdictional operations. When filing a paper containing personal information, West Laurel Water shall, in accordance with 807 KAR 5:001, Section 4(10), encrypt or redact the paper so that personal information cannot be read.

1. Provide copies of each of the following, and when appropriate, provide in Excel spreadsheet format with all formulas, rows, and columns unprotected and fully accessible:

- a. The general ledger and trial balance for the calendar years 2020 and 2021 to date;
- b. The trial balance for the calendar years 2020 and 2021 to date;
- c. General Liability Insurance policies for 2020 and the current period, if available;
- d. Hours worked by each employee, separated by regular hours worked, overtime hours worked, and any other form of hourly wage for the calendar year 2020;

e. A document detailing the names, job titles, job description, and pay rates for each employee on December 31, 2018, December 31, 2019, December 31, 2020, and for those currently employed;

f. A description of all employee benefits, other than salaries and wages, paid to, or on behalf of, each employee for each of the previous five years;

g. State whether West Laurel Water employees participate in County Employee Retirement System (CERS). If confirmed, provide a statement from CERS that reflects the actual monthly payments remitted in 2020;

h. Minutes from West Laurel Water commissioner meetings for the calendar years 2020 and the current period;

i. A document listing the name of all commissioners for each of the five previous years, and state, individually, the total amount of each benefit paid to, or on the behalf of, each commissioner during each year (i.e., wages, health insurance premiums, life insurance premiums, FICA taxes, etc.); and

j. Fiscal Court minutes approving each commissioner's appointment and compensation.

2. Provide a copy of the Adjusted Trial Balance showing unaudited account balances, audit adjustments, and audited balances for the calendar year ended 2020 in Excel spreadsheet format with all formulas, columns, and rows unprotected and fully accessible.

3. Refer to West Laurel Water's Application, Attachment 9, Outstanding Debt Instruments. For each debt instrument, provide a summary of the institution to whom the

debt is owed, its original purpose, and the Case No. of the case in which it was authorized by the Public Service Commission.

4. State when the last time West Laurel Water performed a cost of service study (COSS) to review the appropriateness of its current rates and rate design.

a. Explain whether West Laurel Water considered filing a COSS with the current rate application and the reasoning for not filing one;

b. Explain whether any material changes to West Laurel Water's system would cause a new COSS to be prepared since the last time it has completed one;

c. If there have been no material changes to the West Laurel Water's system, explain when West Laurel Water anticipates completing a new COSS; and

d. Provide a copy of the most recent COSS that has been performed for West Laurel Water's system in Excel spreadsheet format with all formulas, rows, and columns fully accessible and unprotected.

5. Provide the number of new tap-ons installed by meter size for 2020.

a. State whether West Laurel Water keeps a record of the dollar amounts of labor and materials used to install new customer taps. If West Laurel Water does, state the amount of labor expense and materials expense for the test year and where it is located in the general ledger;

b. Separately state the amounts expensed to install each meter; and

c. Provide copies of the cost justification sheets West Laurel Water filed with the Commission to support its \$907 Meter Connection/Tap-on Fee.

6. Provide West Laurel Water's nonrecurring charges, a schedule listing the number of occurrences during the test year for each of the charges, and the total dollar amount billed, and the total dollar amount collected during the test year.

7. Refer to the tariff currently on file with the Commission for West Laurel Water. Provide copies of the cost justification sheets West Laurel Water filed with the Commission to support each nonrecurring charge. If West Laurel Water is unable to locate the cost justification sheets filed with the Commission provide updated ones.

8. Refer to West Laurel Water's Customer Notice. West Laurel Water proposes to raise its monthly water service rates by an across-the-board percentage amount.

a. Provide an explanation of how the across-the-board percentage method to increase monthly water service rates was chosen; and

b. Provide a list of alternative methods West Laurel Water considered and an explanation as to why each alternative was not chosen to increase its monthly water service rates.

9. Refer to West Laurel Water's Application, Attachment 5, Billing Analysis.

a. Provide the billing analysis in Excel spreadsheet format with all formulas, rows, and columns unprotected and fully accessible;

b. Provide the source of the 2020 usage data presented in the Billing Analysis, and state whether any adjustments were made to the data;

c. Provide a list of any adjustments made to the data and include an explanation of each adjustment;

d. Provide monthly billing registers for water customers in Excel spreadsheet format with all formulas, rows, and columns unprotected and fully accessible for the calendar year 2020; and

e. Provide an explanation for the wholesale rate of \$156.54 when West Laurel Water's current tariff shows a wholesale rate of \$6.13 per 1,000 gallons.

10. Confirm whether any of West Laurel Water's debt instruments require a set debt coverage ratio. If yes, detail these ratios and explain whether West Laurel Water requires this rate adjustment to meet those requirements.

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