

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of:

ELECTRONIC SOUTH HOPKINS WATER)	
DISTRICT UNACCOUNTED-FOR WATER LOSS)	CASE NO.
REDUCTION PLAN, SURCHARGE AND)	2023-00018
MONITORING)	

COMMISSION STAFF'S FIRST REQUEST FOR INFORMATION
TO SOUTH HOPKINS WATER DISTRICT

South Hopkins Water District (South Hopkins District), pursuant to 807 KAR 5:001, shall file with the Commission an electronic version of the following information. The information requested is due on October 18, 2023. The Commission directs South Hopkins District to the Commission's July 22, 2021 Order in Case No. 2020-00085¹ 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

¹ 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).

response is true and accurate to the best of that person's knowledge, information, and belief formed after a reasonable inquiry.

South Hopkins District shall make timely amendment to any prior response if South Hopkins District obtains information that indicates the response was incorrect or incomplete when made or, though correct or complete when made, is now incorrect or incomplete in any material respect.

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

Careful attention shall be given to copied and scanned 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, South Hopkins District 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 an estimate of the percentage of water loss attributable to each of the following:

- a. Existing water lines;
- b. Storage facilities;
- c. Pump stations;
- d. Meters; and

- e. Any other areas as identified by South Hopkins District.
2. Explain what specific steps South Hopkins District will take in the next four years to reduce water loss to at least 15 percent.
3. Provide a detailed spending plan for the proceeds of the surcharge approved in Case No. 2022-00122.²
4. Provide the number of miles of water line in South Hopkins District's system composed of:
 - a. Asbestos cement pipe;
 - b. Polyethylene pipe;
 - c. Polyvinyl chloride; and
 - d. Cast iron.
5. For each of the types of pipe in Item 4 above, state to what extent South Hopkins District estimates the type of pipe is contributing to water loss.
6. Refer to the Water-loss Reduction Plan filed on May 31, 2023, specifically the final page of the proposal.
 - a. Provide any reports created by Strand Engineering for South Hopkins District in relation to line replacement and water loss reduction.
 - b. Provide the source of funds for the water line replacement project involving Strand Engineering mentioned in the proposal.
 - c. Explain how South Hopkins District will determine the type of pipe used to replace the aging lines.

² Case No. 2022-00122, *Electronic Application of South Hopkins Water District for an Alternative Rate Adjustment* (Ky. PSC Feb. 15, 2023) South Hopkins District did not propose a surcharge to address water loss. The Commission Staff recommended one in its Commission Staff Report (filed Sep. 23, 2022).

d. Describe any other maintenance or construction needed to address the issues of improper installation of waterlines.

e. Provide a timeline for the waterline replacement project referenced in the proposal.

f. Explain what methods South Hopkins District will use to determine the order of line replacement.

7. Clarify whether South Hopkins District is seeking approval to use surcharge proceeds to perform routine maintenance on pump stations.

8. Explain how South Hopkins District currently performs routine maintenance to pump stations to address unaccounted for water loss.

9. Explain how South Hopkins District plans to improve maintenance of pump stations to address water loss.

10. Explain what environmental issues each of the six pump stations face and how these issues affect water loss.

11. State when each pump station was placed into service and the useful life of each station.

12. Explain whether South Hopkins District has retained professional services to conduct condition assessments on pump stations and storage facilities.

13. State how many customer meters are in South Hopkins District system; of this number how many are radio read meters.

14. State whether South Hopkins District is seeking Commission approval to use water loss surcharge funds for meter replacement purposes.

15. If South Hopkins District is seeking Commission approval to fund meter replacement using water loss surcharge funds, provide detail of the replacement such as meter type, model, and cost.

16. Explain how South Hopkins District would decide between hiring on an individual staff and contracting a company to detect leaks.

17. State whether South Hopkins District has reached out to any companies or consulting firms regarding leak detection.

18. State whether South Hopkins District is seeking Commission approval to use water loss surcharge funds to hire additional staff.

19. State whether South Hopkins District is seeking Commission approval to engage the services of a water loss specialist using water loss surcharge proceeds.

20. Refer to page 4 of the Water-loss Reduction Plan filed on May 31, 2023, and provide the following:

a. The age for each of the vehicles and equipment listed;

b. State whether the equipment is no longer able to be safely operated; and

c. Provide the useful life for each vehicle and equipment item listed.

21. Provide the insurance policy for the Ford F-250 destroyed in the 2021 tornado. If not possible, provide an explanation.

a. Provide the amount received in insurance compensation due to the destruction of the F-250.

b. If no insurance compensation was received, explain why not.

22. State whether any insurance policy covered the backhoe damaged in an accident. If not, provide an explanation.

23. Explain how the replacement of vehicles as proposed by South Hopkins District would result in the reduction of water loss.

24. Explain what, if any, plan there is for the replacement of the three storage facilities that are 55 years old.

25. Provide the age and condition of current leak detection equipment, including the listening device.

26. State whether South Hopkins District is seeking commission approval to use water loss surcharge proceeds to purchase leak detection equipment.

27. If South Hopkins District is seeking Commission approval to use surcharge proceeds to purchase leak detection equipment, provide a description of such equipment and its cost.

28. Explain what, if any, funding South Hopkins District has applied for or received in the last three years to address its aging infrastructure.



Linda C. Bridwell, PE
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Public Service Commission
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DATED SEP 19 2023

cc: Parties of Record

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