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PUBLIC SERVICE  
COMMISSION

Kentucky Public Service Commission  
211 Sower Boulevard  
Frankfort, KY 40601

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing as a concerned resident of the Bullock Pen Lake area in response to the formal investigation initiated by the Kentucky Public Service Commission in Case No. 2025-00259 regarding the Bullock Pen Water District's (BPWD) potential expansion or replacement of its water treatment plant. While I recognize the need for reliable water services, I urge the Commission to carefully consider the significant environmental, recreational, and economic impacts this project could have on our community and the lake ecosystem. The proposed new plant, with a capacity of up to 2 million gallons per day and projected withdrawals increasing to 1.5 million gallons per day by 2047, risks drawing down lake levels in ways that could irreparably harm the area.

One major concern is the potential devaluation of homes and properties surrounding Bullock Pen Lake. Many residents, including my wife and I, chose to live here for the scenic beauty and access to the water. A shrinking lake could transform the shoreline into unsightly mudflats, deterring potential buyers and lowering property values. Residents have already voiced fears that reduced water levels would diminish the quality of life and lead to financial losses without compensation for affected property owners.

Dock access and recreational use of the lake would also suffer greatly. Currently, the lake supports activities like kayaking, boating, and general water enjoyment. However, increased water withdrawals could render docks unusable, forcing owners to extend them at personal expense or abandon them altogether as the water recedes. This would block access for many, turning what is now a vibrant recreational resource into an inaccessible "mud pit," as described by local residents.

Fishing quality, a cornerstone of the lake's appeal, is at risk due to fluctuating seasonal lake levels. Peak fishing months could see significant drawdowns, reducing water depth and quality. This would not only degrade the fishing experience but also have an impact on the overall health of the fish populations, which rely on stable levels for survival and reproduction.

The aquatic ecosystems and spawning areas within Bullock Pen Lake are particularly vulnerable. Fish spawning occurs in shallow areas and creeks, which could dry up or become inhospitable with lower water levels. A decline in fish stocks would disrupt the food chain, affecting the entire underwater habitat and leading to long-term ecological imbalance.

Wildlife habitats around the lake, home to species such as blue herons, beavers, various birds, and other animals, could be severely compromised. Herons and birds depend on the lake for feeding and nesting, while beavers and other mammals rely on consistent water levels for their burrows and foraging. As the lake shrinks, these species may abandon the area, resulting in a loss of biodiversity and the natural charm that defines our community.

Finally, this proposal raises questions about environmental stewardship and long-term sustainability. BPWD has mentioned monitoring lake levels and adjusting withdrawals, but without robust

safeguards, the project prioritizes short-term water needs over the lake's health. Alternatives, such as connecting to nearby districts like Boone-Florence Water Commission or upgrading pipes, could achieve a reliable water supply without jeopardizing the ecosystem. True stewardship requires balancing human needs with preservation, ensuring Bullock Pen Lake remains viable for future generations.

I respectfully request that the Commission deny approval for the new treatment plant unless comprehensive mitigation measures are implemented to protect these vital aspects of our community. Thank you for considering these concerns in your deliberations. I am available for further discussion or to provide additional information.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Tim Edwards in black ink.

Tim Edwards

Handwritten signature of Jodi Edwards in black ink.

Jodi Edwards