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PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of:
MICHAEL HEMPHILL v. SOUTH EASTERN WATER ASSOCIATION, INC. (CASE NO. 2026-00191)

– AND –

SOUTH EASTERN WATER ASSOCIATION, INC. RATE ADJUSTMENT APPLICATION (CASE NO. 2026-00233)

SUPPLEMENTAL REQUEST TO MERGE BOTH CASES

To the Commissioners of the Kentucky Public Service Commission:

I am Michael Hemphill. I am a 68-year-old retired farmer and business owner. I own 72.5 acres of commercial farmland in Pulaski County that my family has held for generations. I pay significant property and sales taxes here, and I hold three active water meters with this non-profit water association.

I am writing to formally ask the Commission to merge my individual billing complaint case (**Case No. 2026-00191**) with this rate increase case (**Case No. 2026-00233**). **It absolutely makes no business sense to Kentucky taxpayers to keep these cases separate**, though it makes immense financial sense for the utility's attorneys. I request a merger for the following reasons:

1. The Utility is Already Mixing the Cases: In their paperwork trying to block me from joining the rate case, the utility's high-priced lawyers (*Stoll Keenon Ogden*) literally cut and pasted the exact same vague, address-less "Blue John Road tank" records from my individual billing dispute. Since *they* are the ones mixing the exact same paperwork across both files, the billing errors, meter discrepancies, and infrastructure issues are obviously tied together.

2. The Lucrative Double-Billing Scheme: Keeping these cases artificially split allows this prestigious law firm to benefit financially dearly by racking up double the billable hours. Since **July 8, 2026**, they have already invested massive blocks of billable time into building two entirely separate files. If these cases stay separated, they get to double-bill this non-profit association twice for the exact same cut-and-paste legal work, duplicating hearings, and multiplying corporate hours. This is a direct drain of member-contributed funds into private pockets.

3. This Affects Thousands of Us: According to the Association's and SKO's own filings, this rate increase doesn't just hit my 3 meters—it directly affects **8,333 other member meters** across our community. If the utility is using sloppy math, wrong addresses, and phantom billing on my account, every single one of those thousands of members has a right to know if their meters are being managed the same way.

4. Saving Kentucky Taxpayers Money: Forcing this Commission to hold two separate hearings on two separate days to look at the exact same cut-and-paste paperwork is a complete waste of time. It causes redundant administrative work and wastes the hard-earned money of Kentucky taxpayers. Merging these cases into one single hearing gets everything out in the open efficiently for me and the other **8,333 member meters**.

5. Preventing Mixed Decisions: Keeping these folders separate on your desk runs the risk of having two different rulings on the exact same meters and assets.

As a three-meter member of this non-profit association, I am trying to protect my farm's pocketbook from a multiplied rate hike while forcing the utility to answer for its messy ledger history. Merging these cases is the only common-sense move that protects both my due process rights and the public taxpayer till leading into the upcoming **November 3rd** bookkeeping deadline.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Hemphill
Pulaski County Farmer & Member
Dated: October 13, 2026