

BEFORE THE TENNESSEE REGULATORY AUTHORITY

NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

IN RE:	May 19, 2006	)	
		)	
PETITION FOR APPROVAL OF TENNESSEE		)	DOCKET NO.
WASTEWATER SYSTEMS, INC, TO EXPAND		)	05-00340
ITS SERVICE AREA TO INCLUDE A PORTION		)	
OF DECATUR COUNTY, TENNESSEE, KNOWN		)	
AS RIVERSEDGE SUBDIVISION		)	

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ORDER APPROVING PETITION TO AMEND  
CERTIFICATE OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY

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This matter came before Chairman Ron Jones, Director Pat Miller and Director Sara Kyle of the Tennessee Regulatory Authority (the “Authority” or “TRA”), the voting panel assigned to this docket, as part of the Hearing Calendar heard on April 17, 2006 to consider the *Petition of Tennessee Wastewater Systems, Inc. to Amend its Certificate of Convenience and Necessity* (the “*Petition*”) requesting that the Authority expand its service area to include a portion of Decatur County, Tennessee known as Riversedge Subdivision.

**Background**

On April 6, 1994, Tennessee Wastewater Systems, Inc.<sup>1</sup> (“TWS” or “Company”) received a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (“CCN”) in Docket No. 93-09040 from the Tennessee Public Service Commission to provide wastewater service to the Oakwood Subdivision in Maury County. Since that time, through various other dockets, the Company has been granted approval to expand its service territory to include other areas in Tennessee. The Company’s principal office is located in Nashville, Tennessee. TWS filed the *Petition* in this matter, along with the Pre-filed Direct Testimony of Charles Pickney, Jr., on December 22, 2005.

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<sup>1</sup> Tennessee Wastewater Systems, Inc. was formerly known as On-Site Systems, Inc. This name change was effected by the TRA’s order of February 19, 2004, in Docket No. 03-00518.

### **Legal Standard for Granting Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity**

No public utility is permitted to begin construction or operation of a new utility facility or service before obtaining approval of the Authority. The procedure for obtaining a CCN evidencing such approval is set forth in Tenn. Code Ann. § 65-4-201(a) (Supp. 2005), which states as follows:

(a) No public utility shall establish or begin the construction of, or operate any line, plant, or system, or route in or into a municipality or other territory already receiving a like service from another public utility, or establish service therein, without first having obtained from the authority, after written application and hearing, a certificate that the present or future public convenience and necessity require or will require such construction, establishment, and operation, and no person or corporation not at the time a public utility shall commence the construction of any plant, line, system or route to be operated as a public utility, or the operation of which would constitute the same, or the owner or operator thereof, a public utility as defined by law, without having first obtained, in like manner, a similar certificate. . . .

The Authority promulgated wastewater rules effective December 29, 2005 through June 12, 2006. TRA Rule 1220-4-13-.04(b) sets forth certain requirements for a CCN applicant as follows:

(b) Any public wastewater utility requesting a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CCN) authorizing such public utility to construct and/or operate a wastewater system or to expand the area in which such a system is operated, shall file an application in compliance with Rule 1220-1-1-.03 and this rule. All applicants shall demonstrate to the Authority that they are registered with the Secretary of State, have obtained the financial security required under 1220-4-13-.07, and possess sufficient managerial, financial, and technical abilities to provide the wastewater services for which they have applied. Each application shall justify existing public need and include the required financial security consistent with Tenn. Code Ann. § 65-4-201 and these rules.

### **The Petition**

On December 22, 2005, TWS filed the *Petition* requesting that its service area be expanded to include a portion of Decatur County, Tennessee known as Riversedge Subdivision. The approximate acreage is 25. According to the *Petition*, the Company seeks to provide service

to approximately 24 residential lots. TWS filed residential sewer rates with the *Petition*.<sup>2</sup> TWS also attached a letter from the developer, H. Rick Ray, expressing his desire that TWS provide service to the subdivision. In addition, TWS attached letters from other potential wastewater service providers stating that none of the potential providers currently serves the area or intends to extend wastewater service to Riversedge Subdivision.<sup>3</sup> The Company also attached a service area map showing the location of Riversedge Subdivision.

### **The April 17, 2006 Hearing**

Pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 65-4-201(a) (Supp. 2005), public notice of the Hearing in this matter was issued by the Hearing Officer on April 6, 2006. No person sought intervention prior to or during the Hearing. During the Hearing held on April 17, 2006, Mr. Charles Pickney, Jr., President of TWS, participated, presented testimony and was subject to examination by the panel. Mr. Pickney's Pre-Filed Testimony was entered into the record in this matter. The Pre-Filed Testimony states that the Company has the managerial, technical and financial ability to provide wastewater services to Riversedge Subdivision.<sup>4</sup> Additionally, the panel took administrative notice of TWS's 2004 annual report filed with the Authority.

The panel found that TWS had met the requirements of Tenn. Code Ann. § 65-4-201(a) (Supp. 2005) and TRA Rule 1220-4-13.-04(b). The panel also found that the rates filed by TWS were identical to those rates previously filed by the Company.

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<sup>2</sup> TWS filed with the *Petition* a Tariff Sheet with a billing summary listing the Company's residential customers and indicating that the monthly residential rate will be \$35.11.

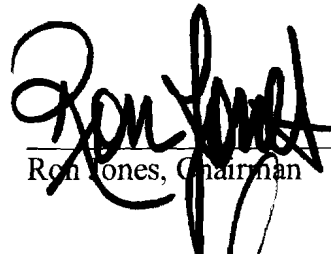
<sup>3</sup> See *Petition* (unnumbered attachments) (December 22, 2005): Letter from Don Buckingham, Mayor of the Town of Scotts Hill, Tennessee (November 23, 2005); Letter from Kenneth Broadway, County Mayor of Decatur County, Tennessee (November 29, 2005).

<sup>4</sup> Charles Pickney, Jr., Pre-Filed Testimony, p. 1 (December 22, 2005).

Based upon the evidentiary and administrative record as a whole and relying on the standards set forth in Tenn. Code Ann. § 65-4-201(a) (Supp. 2005) and TRA Rule 1220-4-13-.04(b), the panel voted unanimously to approve the *Petition*. Further, the panel unanimously approved the rates filed by the Company.

**IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:**

1. The *Petition of Tennessee Wastewater Systems, Inc. to Amend its Certificate of Convenience and Necessity* to expand its service area to include Riversedge Subdivision in Decatur County, Tennessee, as shown in the map attached to the *Petition*, is approved.
2. The Petitioner's rates for wastewater service shall be as listed in the Tariff and rate schedules filed with the *Petition*.



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Ron Jones, Chairman



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Pat Miller, Director



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Sara Kyle, Director