IN THE TENNESSEE REG AT NASHVILLI	· / D.
IN RE:	? ROOM
PETITION OF TENNESSEE WASTEWATER SYSTEMS, INC., FOR APPROVAL OF ADJUSTMENT OF ITS RATES AND NEW TARIFF	) ) DOCKET NO. 16-00139 )

## EXPEDITED MOTION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME TO FILE CONSUMER ADVOCATE'S PRE-FILED TESTIMONY

Comes the Consumer Protection and Advocate Division of the Office of the Attorney

General (Consumer Advocate), and hereby requests an extension of time until May 19, 2017, to

file its Intervenor Pre-Filed Testimony in the above-captioned docket.

In support of this Motion, the Consumer Advocate would show:

1. On January 13, 2017, the Consumer Advocate sent Tennessee Wastewater Systems, Inc. (TWSI) its First Discovery Request. The number of requests was large due to the TWSI's Petition lacking the necessary documentation expected by common practice to be submitted with a rate petition. Accordingly, the Consumer Advocate contemporaneously filed a Motion for Leave to Issue More than Forty Discovery Requests due to in part to the lack of any confidential records such as income statements, balance sheets, general ledgers or other such accounting documents supporting the Petition. Additionally, TWSI is a subsidiary of Adenus Group LLC which owns other wastewater systems. The subsidiary/affiliate, multi-state structure and operations requires more extensive discovery.

- 2. On February 3, 2017, TWSI responded formally to the Consumer Advocate's First Discovery Request. The Consumer Advocate acknowledges and appreciates that TWSI began informally providing responses to the Consumer Advocate on January 19, 2017.
- On February 8 and 17, 2017, TWSI filed supplemental responses to the Consumer Advocate's First Discovery Request providing responsive documents inadvertently left out of the exhibits previously filed in the response.
- 4. On February 24, 2017, Consumer Advocate sent TWSI its Second Discovery Request.
- 5. On March 8, 2017, the Parties met, in person, to discuss issues related to the Consumer Advocate's Discovery Requests. During this meeting, the Consumer Advocate advised TWSI that it would be using the test year of 2016 rather than TWSI's proposed test year of 2015.
- 6. On March 14, 2017, the Consumer Advocate filed a records request related to this Docket regarding the topic of a credit card convenience fees and customer complaints. Based on the Petition filed in this Docket, the Consumer Advocate was not on notice that the credit card convenience fee was already being assessed although it was not included in the existing tariff. During the March 8, 2017 meeting on discovery matters, the discussion included the proposed credit card convenience fee. At this time, TWSI explained they were already assessing the fee and described their interaction with the Authority on this topic recently and in the past prior to implementing the fee.
- 7. On March 17, 2017, TWSI responded formally to the Consumer Advocate's Second Discovery Request. The Consumer Advocate acknowledges and appreciates TWSI's expressed willingness for continuing the discussion on information sharing.

- 8. On March 23, 2017, TWSI provided a supplemental response to the Consumer Advocate's Second Discovery Request providing responsive documents inadvertently left out of the exhibits previously filed in the response.
- 9. On March 24, 2017, the Tennessee Regulatory Authority (Authority) responded to the Consumer Advocate's Tenn. Code Ann. § 65-4-118 Records Request.
- 10. The Consumer Advocate sent TWSI an Informal Third Discovery Request today, Friday, April 7, 2017. A copy is attached as Exhibit A. This Discovery Requests includes clarification of previous discovery responses; supplemental information on previous discovery responses; identifying non-responsive discovery responses; detailed questions regarding currently assessed credit card convenience fees; and detailed questions regarding business transactions with entities that appear to involve a relative of a director of Adenus Group, LLC.
- 11. The Consumer Advocate respectfully suggests that it will need time to analyze the Company's responses to the informal discovery request before preparing testimony. Also, the Company should be given time to present its response to and perspective on any potential issue that arises in the discovery process.
- 12. The Consumer Advocate believes that it would be more helpful to the Authority to have the Consumer Advocate's witness present a complete case to it. By "complete case," the Consumer Advocate means a case that not merely opposes selected parts of the Company's petition, but one that presents a virtually parallel case that sets forth an alternative number for every number presented by the Company. In order to accomplish the work for this Docket, the Consumer Advocate needs information regarding
  - the currently assessed credit card convenience fee which is not part of the existing tariff but proposed in the new Petition;

• clarification on business transactions with entities that appear to involve a relative

of a director of Adenus Group, LLC; and

detailed information and documentation for calculations related to a Test Period

ending December 31, 2016.

13. Accordingly, the Consumer Advocate's request for an extension of time is

reasonable and benefits all parties and the TRA.

14. The Consumer Advocate has spoken with TWSI concerning the extension of time

requested in this Motion. Counsel for TWSI has indicated a willingness to discuss a revised

procedural schedule. However due to the quickly approaching deadline, the Consumer Advocate

is filing this request for an extension of time in order to preserve its rights. The Parties have agreed

to continue to talk about the potential for an agreement on a revised procedural schedule.

In view of the foregoing, the Consumer Advocate respectfully requests that the Hearing

Officer extend the due date for the referenced Intervenor Pre-Filed Testimony until May 19,

2017. And in view of the immediacy of the current deadline, expedited consideration is

respectfully requested.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

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**Public Protection Section** 

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## **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that a true and exact copy of the foregoing was served via U.S. Mail or electronic mail upon:

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This the \_\_\_\_ day of April, 2017

Karen H. STACHOWSKI