

19-00097

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**DIRECT TESTIMONY  
of  
BRUCE MEYER**

**ON BEHALF OF CARTWRIGHT CREEK, LLC**

October 21<sup>st</sup>, 2019

***Q1. PLEASE STATE YOUR NAME, BUSINESS ADDRESS AND OCCUPATION FOR THE RECORD.***

*A1.* My name is Bruce Meyer and my business address is 6545 Cox Road, College Grove, TN 37046.

***Q2. BY WHOM ARE YOU EMPLOYED AND IN WHAT CAPACITY?***

*A2.* I am employed by Sheaffer Wastewater Solutions, LLC as Operations Manager.

***Q3. HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN EMPLOYED BY SHEAFFER WASTEWATER SOLUTIONS?***

*A3.* I have been employed by Sheaffer Wastewater Solutions (“Sheaffer”) for approximately seventeen years.

***Q4. WHAT IS YOUR EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND AND EXPERIENCE?***

*A4.* I have a Bachelor’s and Master’s Degree in Environmental Engineering for the University of Illinois, Chicago and the Illinois Institute of Technology, respectively. I have over 35 years of experience in various roles in the environmental industry. I currently hold a Professional Engineering license in Tennessee and have State of Tennessee Biological Natural Systems and Collection System II wastewater operator’s licenses.

***Q5. WHAT ARE YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES AS THE OPERATIONS MANAGER FOR CARTWRIGHT CREEK, LLC?***

*A5.* I am responsible for the day-to-day operation, engineering and permitting for Cartwright Creek, LLC (“Cartwright Creek”).

**Q6. PLEASE DESCRIBE THE CARTWRIGHT CREEK SERVICE AREA.**

A6. Cartwright Creek currently provides service to the Grassland's area in Williamson County and to the Hardeman Springs, Arrington Retreat and Troubadour (formerly Hideaway) subdivisions in the Arrington/Triune area in Williamson County. The existing service area in the Arrington/Triune area was approved by the Tennessee Regulatory Authority in Docket Nos. 04-00358 and 07-00180.

**Q7. WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF YOUR TESTIMONY IN THIS PROCEEDING?**

A7. The purpose of this testimony is to support Cartwright Creek's Petition to extend the Capital Improvements surcharge adopted in Docket 16-00127 for thirty-six months. As I testified in Docket 16-00127, the wastewater plant at the Company's Grassland facility was constructed in the 1970's and is in need of significant plant upgrades and replacement. Neither Sheaffer nor Cartwright has access to the capital necessary to fund these plant upgrades and replacements. Therefore, the Company and the Party Staff jointly proposed that the Commission impose a \$7.50 per month surcharge on all customers to begin providing a funding mechanism for capital improvements. The Commission agreed. The surcharge expires at the end of 2019.

**Q8. PLEASE DESCRIBE THE MECHANISM THAT THE COMPANY USES TO FUND PLANT REPLACEMENT AND UPGRADES.**

A8. The surcharge funds are deposited as received on a monthly basis into a separate FDIC insured state authorized interest-bearing account. Cartwright Creek then files a request for preapproval by the Commission before any of the Capital Replacement funds could be expended from the account. The current balance in the account is \$189,028.00. The current balance in the escrow account created in Docket 09-00045 is \$148,083.00.

**Q9. IS THE \$7.50 PER MONTH SURCHARGE ENOUGH TO FULLY FUND THE CAPITAL NECESSARY FOR PLANT REPLACEMENT AND UPGRADES?**

**A9.** No. As I testified in Docket 16-00127, Cartwright Creek needs approximately \$4 million to fully fund all the plant replacement and upgrade projects needed to provide continuing service and comply with permit requirements at the Grassland's plant. Therefore, the Capital Replacement surcharge needs to be continued to contribute to those expenses.

**Q10. PLEASE DESCRIBE SOME OF THE PLANT REPLACEMENT AND UPGRADE PROJECTS NEEDED BY CARTWRIGHT CREEK.**

**A10.** A full description of both the immediate and long-term capital replacement projects needed in the Grassland area were included as an exhibit to my testimony in Docket 16-00127. Those projects still need to be done.

**Q11. PLEASE SUMMARIZE THE COMPANY'S REQUESTED RELIEF FROM THE AUTHORITY.**

**A11.** Cartwright Creek requests that the Commission extend the surcharge for thirty-six months under the same terms and conditions that were approved earlier by the Commission.

**Q12. DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING ELSE TO ADD?**

**A12.** Yes. As described in the Petition, the Consumer Advocate has asked the Company to open a new docket for the purpose of discussion and monitoring of the Company's long-term plan to replace the Grassland treatment system and how it will be financed. Also, the Consumer Advocate asked the Company to adopt the "Overspending Protection" provisions approved by the Commission in Docket No. 16-00096 in order to allow the Commission and the Consumer Advocate to track expenses of both the treatment system

replacement project and the current project to address infiltration problems at Grassland.

The Company agrees to those requests.

***Q13. DOES THIS COMPLETE YOUR TESTIMONY?***

***A13.*** Yes, it does.