

**IN THE TENNESSEE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION  
AT NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE**

<b>IN RE:</b>	)	
	)	
<b>DOCKET TO COLLECT AND CONSIDER</b>	)	
<b>INFORMATION RELEVANT TO</b>	)	
<b>COMMISSION PRACTICE AND</b>	)	<b>DOCKET NO. 21-00018</b>
<b>PROCEDURE FOR RULEMAKING ON</b>	)	
<b>TENN. R. AND REGS. 1220-01-01, 1220-01-02,</b>	)	
<b>AND OTHER SECTIONS AS DETERMINED</b>	)	
<b>RELEVANT</b>	)	

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**COMMENTS OF THE CITY OF CHATTANOOGA**

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Comes now the City of Chattanooga ("City"), pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 65-2-102(a)(4) and the Notice Soliciting Public Comment on Rulemaking issued on March 24, 2025 by the Tennessee Public Utility Commission ("TPUC" or "Commission"), respectfully submits its comments to the Commission for consideration in this proceeding.

**I. BACKGROUND**

On February 25, 2021, the Commission held a workshop in this Docket to discuss the amendment of its practice and procedure rules at Tenn. R. & Reg. 1220-01-01 and 1220-01-02 (the "Rules"). The participants to that workshop were to collaborate on proposed rule amendments and file status reports by March 19, 2021. Two status reports were filed – one by the Consumer Advocate Unit of the Office of the Tennessee Attorney General ("Consumer Advocate") and one collective report by large public utilities including the Chattanooga Gas Company and Tennessee American Water Company, among others. The Commission left the docket file open to receive additional comments through April 19, 2021. Comments were filed by many of the participants to the workshop.

The Docket remained dormant until the Commission issued a Notice of Rulemaking Hearing on February 24, 2025. The Commission followed its Notice of Rulemaking Hearing with a Notice Soliciting Public Comment on Rulemaking, inviting the public to file written comments on its amended Rules in advance of the April 22, 2025 hearing. These comments are filed pursuant to the Commission's Notice.

## **II. THE CITY HAS AN INTEREST IN THE RULES AT ISSUE**

As a municipality advocating for its residents and as a consumer of public utilities, the City has intervened in multiple rate proceedings before the Commission. Most recently, the City intervened in Docket No. 24-00032, advocating against a significant rate increase proposed by Tennessee American Water Company. The City has read the comments filed in this Docket by the Consumer Advocate and by public utility companies (collectively, the "Public Utilities")<sup>1</sup>. The City specifically responds to such comments based on its own experiences litigating before the Commission.

## **III. SUFFICIENT NOTICE OF RATE CHANGES TO CONSUMERS AND OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES IS IMPERATIVE.**

As this Commission is aware, rate cases require a large amount of review and analysis by experts during a limited timeframe. The City recognizes the improvements to the Rules' existing notice requirements in the Commission's proposed Rules. However, the filing notification provided by the public utility to the Commission and the Consumer Advocate should include a notification to all parties of record intervening in the public utility's last two rate cases. The City thus proposes the following language:

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<sup>1</sup> The following public utilities have filed comments in this Docket: Tennessee-American Water Company, Piedmont Natural Gas Company, Inc., Chattanooga Gas Company, and Kingsport Power Company d/b/a/ AEP Appalachian Power.

## 1220-01-02-.23 Petition for Rates

- (2) Not less than thirty (30) calendar days before filing a rate petition under T.C.A. § 65-5-103(a), the Company shall file with the Docket Manager, with a copy to the Commission's General Counsel and Director of the Utilities Division, to the Tennessee Attorney General's Office, Consumer Advocate Division, and to all parties of record intervening in the Company's previous two rate cases, notice of its intent to file such petition. For purposes of opening a docket file, such notice shall be considered an initial petition, and the requisite filing fee shall be required.

The City agrees with the proposed rule to the extent it emphasizes improved notice to consumers, but recognizes continuing room for improvement in light of technological advances. The City recommends adoption of the revisions to Rule 1220-01-02-.23(5)(a)(ii) and Rule 1220-01-01-.23 proposed by the Consumer Advocate in its Second Supplemental Comments, filed in this Docket on April 1, 2025.

## **IV. CONCLUSION**

The City appreciates the Commission's invitation for the public to submit comments regarding important practice and procedural rules, and requests that the Commission consider these comments when drafting the revised rule. The City looks forward to participating in the upcoming Rulemaking Hearing on April 22, 2025.

Respectfully Submitted,

CITY OF CHATTANOOGA

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## CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing was served via electronic mail. If requested, a hard copy can be mailed by U.S. Mail Post.

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This, the 9<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2025.



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