## BASS BERRY SIMS.

Matthew J. Sinback msinback@bassberry.com (615) 742-7910

November 17, 2023

## Via Electronic Filing and U.S. Mail

Hon. Herbert H. Hilliard, Chairman c/o Ectory Lawless, Docket Manager Tennessee Public Utility Commission 502 Deaderick Street, 4th Floor Nashville, TN 37243 tpuc.docketroom@tn.gov Electronically Filed in TPUC Docket Room on November 17, 2023 at 1:58 p.m.

Re: Petition of Jackson Sustainability Cooperative to Determine if a Certificate of

Convenience and Necessity Is Needed

Docket No. 21-00061

Dear Chairman Hilliard:

Enclosed please find an original and four copies of the following, which was filed electronically on November 17, 2023: Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association's Motion for Leave to File Reply to Responses by Jackson Sustainability Cooperative and Its Former Counsel Regarding Award of Reasonable Attorneys' Fees, and the exhibit thereto.

Should you have any questions concerning the enclosed, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Matthew J. Sinback

Enclosure

cc: All Counsel of Record (via email)

#### STATE OF TENNESSEE

## BEFORE THE TENNESSEE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

### NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

IN RE:	)	
	)	
PETITION OF JACKSON	)	
SUSTAINABILITY COOPERATIVE TO	)	Docket No. 21-0006
DETERMINE IF A CERTIFICATE OF	)	
CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY IS	)	
NEEDED	)	

## TENNESSEE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION'S MOTION FOR LEAVE TO FILE REPLY TO RESPONSES BY JACKSON SUSTAINABILITY COOPERATIVE AND ITS FORMER COUNSEL REGARDING AWARD OF REASONABLE ATTORNEYS' FEES

Pursuant to Commission Rule 1220-01-02-.06, Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association ("TECA") requests leave to file a short reply to (i) Applicant's (Jackson Sustainability Cooperative) Response Argument to Motion to Assess Fees and Expenses in This Case, filed on September 29, 2023; (ii) Response By John Beam And Equitus Law Alliance, PLLC to the Motions for Sanctions Filed by the Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association and by Jackson Energy Authority, filed on October 2, 2023 ("Former Counsel's Response"); and the Affidavit of Dennis Emberling, filed on October 2, 2023 ("Emberling's October Affidavit").

Under Commission Rule 1220-01-02-.06, a reply to a response may be filed if leave is given. Tenn. Comp. R. & Regs. 1220-01-02-.06. TECA submits that a short reply will aid the Hearing Officer's consideration of the issues. A reply is particularly helpful here because Former Counsel's Response is not confined to responding to the arguments made in TECA's

Memorandum Supporting Award of Reasonable Attorneys' Fees, filed on September 1, 2023, and because Former Counsel's Response and Emberling's October Affidavit contain incomplete and misleading characterizations of the record in this docket.

For the Hearing Officer's convenience, a copy of TECA's proposed reply is attached hereto as **Exhibit 1**.

**DATED** this 17th day of November, 2023.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ W. Brantley Phillips, Jr.

W. Brantley Phillips, Jr. (18844)
Matthew J. Sinback (23891)
Caleb H. Hogan (37412)

BASS BERRY & SIMS PLC
150 Third Avenue South, Suite 2800
Nashville, TN 37201
(615) 742-6200
bphillips@bassberry.com
msinback@bassberry.com
caleb.hogan@bassberry.com

Attorneys for Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association

#### **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that on this 17th day of November, 2023, the foregoing document was served on the following persons via email and/or U.S. Mail, postage prepaid:

John A. Beam, III David H. Wood

**EQUITUS LAW ALLIANCE, PLLC** 

P.O. Box 280240 Nashville, TN 37208 beam@equituslaw.com

Steven L. Lefkovitz

LEFKOVITZ AND LEFKOVITZ, PLLC

908 Harpeth Valley Place Nashville, TN 37221

Henry Walker

BRADLEY ARANT BOULT CUMMINGS, LLP

1600 Division Street, Suite 700 Nashville, TN 37203

hwalker@bradley.com

William Shea Forgety Karl Emmanuel Pulley 115 Shivel Drive Hendersonville, TN 37075 Shea@ForgetyLaw.com KarlPulley@aol.com Larry L. Cash Mark W. Smith

MILLER & MARTIN PLLC

832 Georgia Avenue, Suite 1200 Chattanooga, Tennessee 37402 larry.cash@millermartin.com mark.smith@millermartin.com

Kimberly Bolton

Office of the General Counsel

TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY

400 West Summit Hill Drive Knoxville, TN 37902-1401 kabolton@tva.gov

Jeremy L. Elrod

TENNESSEE MUNICIPAL ELECTRIC POWER ASSOCIATION

212 Overlook Circle, Suite 205

Brentwood, TN 37027 jelrod@tmepa.org

/s/ W. Brantley Phillips, Jr.

#### STATE OF TENNESSEE

## BEFORE THE TENNESSEE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

#### NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

IN RE:	)	
	)	
PETITION OF JACKSON	)	
SUSTAINABILITY COOPERATIVE TO	)	Docket No. 21-00061
DETERMINE IF A CERTIFICATE OF	)	
CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY IS	)	
NEEDED	)	

## TENNESSEE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION'S REPLY TO RESPONSES BY JACKSON SUSTAINABILITY COOPERATIVE AND ITS FORMER COUNSEL REGARDING AWARD OF REASONABLE ATTORNEYS' FEES

In its order affirming the Hearing Officer's November 14 Order, the Commission observed that "[t]he record here paints a perplexing picture." (Commission Order at 33.)<sup>1</sup> The misguided legal arguments and demonstrably false factual assertions made by John Beam and Equitus Law Alliance PLLC ("Former Counsel") in their response to TECA's Second Fee Memo ("Former Counsel's Response") and by Dennis Emberling in his October 2, 2023 Affidavit ("Emberling's October Affidavit") only make the picture more perplexing.

TECA respectfully submits this reply to briefly address six points raised in Former Counsel's Response, Emberling's October Affidavit, and JSC's September 29, 2023 response brief

This reply uses the same defined terms used in TECA's Memorandum Supporting Award of Reasonable Attorneys' Fees, filed on September 1, 2023 ("TECA's Second Fee Memo").

("JSC's Response").<sup>2</sup> For the reasons discussed below, none of these arguments or assertions provides a valid basis to deny the expenses requested by TECA or to deny TECA's request that JSC, Former Counsel, and Emberling be held jointly and severally liable for those expenses.

*First*, JSC, Former Counsel, and Emberling <u>do not contest</u> the reasonableness of the \$67,843.95 in attorneys' fees and expenses requested by TECA.

Second, JSC does not argue that it would be improper to enter an award of attorneys' fees and expenses against it. JSC's Response simply advises the Hearing Officer that "[a]t the end of the day, if [JSC] is assessed with the fees and expenses from this case, then ... the assessment is non-collectible." (JSC Resp. at 5.) This statement does not suggest there is any barrier to entering a final award of attorneys' fees and expenses against JSC, Former Counsel, and Emberling. As to JSC, entering a final award will provide an appropriate record should any of JSC's principals or affiliates appear again before the Commission.

Third, Former Counsel's effort to reargue the merits of the November 14 Order and the Commission Order are procedurally improper and should be rejected. Curiously, Former Counsel devotes a substantial portion of his response to arguing that Tennessee law does not allow for an award of attorneys' fees and expenses under Rule 37.01 based on the discovery misconduct that occurred in this docket. (See Former Counsel Resp. at 5-9, 12-13, 15-21.) That issue has been decided. (See generally Nov. 14 Order; Commission Order.) It is not the subject of the November 30 hearing set by the Hearing Officer or TECA's Second Fee Memo. (See, e.g., Order Establishing Briefing and Hearing Procedural Schedule, Sep. 8, 2023, as amended Oct. 27, 2023 and Nov. 9,

This reply does not address the arguments made in Emberling's Memorandum in Support of Motion to Dismiss and in Opposition to Briefs of JEA and TECA, filed on October 30, 2023.

2023; TECA's Second Fee Memo.) For that reason, alone, Former Counsel's reargument of the merits should be rejected.

Regardless, Former Counsel's merits argument entirely misses the mark. Former Counsel argues that the discovery misconduct that occurred here does not meet the criteria set forth in *Apple Inc. v. Samsung Elecs. Co.*, 888 F. Supp. 2d 976 (N.D. Cal. 2012) and *Tatham v. Bridgestone Americas Holding, Inc.*, 473 S.W.3d 734 (Tenn. 2015). Neither case is relevant. The *Apple* decision discusses the standards for determining whether an adverse inference may be given as a discovery sanction. *Apple*, 888 F. Supp. 2d at 989-95. The *Tatham* decision considered whether a trial court should have dismissed a case as a sanction for spoliation under Tennessee Rule of Civil Procedure 34A.02. *Tatham*, 473 S.W.3d at 744-48. Neither case involved an award of expenses under Tennessee Rule of Civil Procedure 37.01(4) in connection with the granting of a motion to compel, which is what the Hearing Officer did in the November 14 Order.<sup>3</sup>

Fourth, Former Counsel's argument that he may be liable for the award of expenses only if he specifically directed the discovery misconduct finds no support in the language of Rule 37.01 or the cited authorities. Under Rule 37.01, "the court shall ... require the party ... whose conduct necessitated the motion or the party or attorney advising such conduct or both of them to pay to the moving party the reasonable expenses incurred in obtaining the order, including attorney's fees ...." Tenn. R. Civ. P. 37.01(4). Former Counsel suggests that an attorney may be liable only if it can be proven that "he or she is advising the client not to produce documents." (Former Counsel's Resp. at 12.) That standard misapprehends the attorney's role in discovery. As between the attorney and the client, the attorney is the expert regarding discovery obligations, including the

To be sure, TECA may have sought a more severe sanction—like the dismissal of JSC's petition or an adverse evidentiary inference—if JSC failed to comply with the November 14 Order. JSC chose to abandon this docket instead of answering basic questions about its discovery efforts.

duty to preserve documents. Accordingly, the attorney is obligated to take an "active and primary role" in ensuring that information is preserved and produced. *EPAC Techs., Inc. v. HarperCollins Christian Publ'g, Inc.*, 2018 WL 1542040, at \*22 (M.D. Tenn. Mar. 29, 2018), *aff'd as modified sub nom. EPAC Techs., Inc. v. Thomas Nelson, Inc.*, 2018 WL 3322305 (M.D. Tenn. May 14, 2018). As JSC's counsel during discovery, Former Counsel is responsible for the discovery misconduct that led to the November 14 Order. Moreover, Former Counsel's preferred standard is entirely impracticable. It would require an adverse party to, somehow, pierce the attorney-client privilege to discover the advice given by the attorney to his or her client. Nothing in the language of Rule 37.01 suggests that such proof is required.

Indeed, the cases cited in TECA's Second Fee Memo make clear that neither the language nor the purpose of Rule 37.01 requires proof that the attorney instructed the client to engage in discovery misconduct. *See Devaney v. Cont'l Am. Ins. Co.*, 989 F.2d 1154, 1161-62 (11th Cir. 1993); *GMAC Bank v. HTFC Corp.*, 248 F.R.D. 182, 198 (E.D. Pa. 2008); *Rebsom v. Kunnath*, 2022 WL 715711, at \*2 (D. Mont. Mar. 10, 2022); *Twin Falls NSC, LLC v. S. Idaho Ambulatory Surgery Ctr., LLC*, 2020 WL 5523384, at \*17 (D. Idaho Sept. 14, 2020).

Former Counsel's "due process" argument fares no better. That argument relies upon the United States Supreme Court's decision in *Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co. v. Haeger*, 581 U.S. 101

Incredibly, Former Counsel and Emberling now admit that Emberling continued to exercise discretion over which emails he kept and which emails he moved to his "trash bin" for eventual auto-deletion. Former Counsel explains that E A Solar LLC's auto-delete function "applied only to its email trash bin." (Former Counsel's Resp. at 17.) Emberling explains that "[a]fter our filing to the PUC, I was even more cautious about moving anything to trash that might be important for the PUC case. I never put any emails in trash that I believed relevant to our petition." (Emberling's Oct. Aff. at ¶ 23.) Somehow Mr. Emberling's supposed caution resulted in the deletion of scores of relevant emails created after JSC filed its petition and after discovery commenced. It is telling that instead of answering the interrogatories ordered in the November 14 Order, which focused on explaining JSC's discovery efforts, Emberling chose to put JSC in bankruptcy and move to dismiss this docket.

(2017). Goodyear, however, says nothing about when an attorney may be jointly and severally liable for the expenses incurred by the opposing party in connection with a successful motion to compel. Rather, Goodyear holds that a federal court's inherent authority does not allow the court to issue a sanction that is unrelated to the discovery misconduct. *Id.* at 109-11. In that case, Goodyear withheld a key piece of evidence. *Id.* at 104-05. After the case settled and the misconduct was discovered, the court exercised its inherent authority and required Goodyear to pay all of the plaintiff's legal fees (whether related to discovery or not) from the date of Goodyear's first dishonest discovery response. *Id.* at 105-06. The Supreme Court held that a court may not paint with such a broad brush. Instead, a court may only award those expenses incurred because of the discovery violation. *Id.* at 109.

The November 14 Order (and Rule 37.01) is entirely consistent with *Goodyear*. The November 14 Order limits TECA and JEA to the reasonable attorneys' fees and expenses related to the filing of the motions to compel. (Nov. 14 Order at 17.)<sup>5</sup> Former Counsel's suggestion that the discovery misconduct that resulted in a successful motion to compel did not cause the expenses incurred by the moving party in filing the motion to compel is nonsensical.<sup>6</sup>

*Fifth*, in an effort to cast doubt on the propriety of the November 14 Order and the Commission Order, Former Counsel's arguments make demonstrably false and misleading statements about the record in this case. Former Counsel claims that: (i) after June 2, 2021, E A Solar LLC retained all electronic documents, including email communications; (ii) after June 2, 2021, Mr. Beam made sure all documents, including electronically stored documents were retained

Indeed, the Hearing Officer denied the other expenses requested by TECA. (*Id.* at 15, 17.)

Former Counsel also appears to suggest that TECA only cited cases decided before *Goodyear*. (*See* Former Counsel's Resp. at 22 n.4.) That suggestion is false. TECA's Second Fee Memo cites to cases decided after *Goodyear*. (TECA's Second Fee Memo at 8-9 (citing *Rebsom*, 2022 WL 715711, at \*2; *Twin Falls NSC, LLC*, 2020 WL 5523384, at \*17.)

by the solar developer; and (iii) there is no evidence that proves the existence of documents allegedly not produced in discovery. (Former Counsel's Resp. at 16-18, 20-24.) As the Hearing Officer is aware, Northern Reliability, Inc.'s May 12, 2022 document production ("Northern Reliability's Third Production"), which consists of documents numbered NRI000950-NRI001802, contains nearly 200 emails from, to, or copying Emberling or other persons affiliated with JSC or CDE that were not produced by JSC. (*See* TECA Compel Mem., filed May 20, 2022, at 12, 17-18; *see generally* NRI000950-NRI001787.) Of these, some 111 emails were created *after* June 2, 2021, when Mr. Beam supposedly ensured that all documents were retained. A list of these 111 emails, by date and bates number, is attached as <u>Exhibit A</u>.<sup>7</sup> The claim that no documents created after June 2, 2021 were withheld or destroyed is patently false.<sup>8</sup>

Former Counsel also claims—in a bold heading—that there is no evidence Mr. Emberling's auto-delete policy resulted in the spoliation of relevant evidence. (Former Counsel's Resp. at 16-17.) Again, that claim is simply false. It also is incredible given that JSC and Emberling are the ones who pointed to the auto-delete policy as the reason why so few emails were produced to TECA. (*See, e.g.*, JSC Resp. to Mot. to Compel, filed June 1, 2022, at 12, 19-20.)

Former Counsel omits any discussion of these emails and seems to suggest he was unaware of or has not seen them. (*See* Former Counsel Resp., Decl. of John Beam, at ¶¶ 15-16.) That is nonsense. Those emails were a key issue in the briefing and oral argument of TECA's Motion to Compel and JSC's appeal to the Commission. Indeed, during the June 21, 2022, hearing on TECA's Motion to Compel, Mr. Beam answered questions about the contents of those emails. When asked about the "200 emails that TECA received from Northern Reliability," Mr. Beam explained that the emails were "[t]o and from Mr. Emberling" and "from EA Solar and/or Community Development Enterprises. Those are the two primary sources. Mr. Emberling has an unrelated business they named that there was -- I'm sure a few from there." (Tr. of June 21, 2022 Hr'g at 58:10-23, attached as <u>Exhibit B</u>.) The notion that Former Counsel was unaware of these emails is absurd. Indeed, he was provided a link to download Northern Reliability's Third Production on the same email that was sent to the Commission and the other attorneys involved in the docket. A copy of this email is attached as <u>Exhibit C</u>.

Emberling's October Affidavit likewise ignores these emails. (*See* Emberling's Oct. Aff. at ¶¶ 28-30.)

Sixth, and finally, Former Counsel's effort to portray his interactions with Northern Reliability as benign does not withstand scrutiny. Mr. Beam says he emailed Greg Noble at Northern Reliability and "[t]hree or four days later" spoke with Northern Reliability's outside counsel about weaknesses in the protective order. (Former Counsel Resp. at 3-4, Decl. of John Beam, at ¶ 9.) Mr. Beam sent his email to Mr. Noble on February 11, 2022. (CONFIDENTIAL NRI001775, attached as Ex. 21 to TECA's Compel Mem.) Accordingly, based on his own version of events, Mr. Beam would have spoken to Northern Reliability's counsel by February 15, 2022. Yet, Mr. Beam never mentioned his discussions with Northern Reliability's counsel when, on February 16 and February 28, 2022, TECA's counsel requested an update on Mr. Beam's efforts to arrange for Northern Reliability to accept service of TECA's subpoena. (See TECA's Compel Mem. at 10, Exs. 19-20.) Instead, Mr. Beam simply told TECA's counsel that he had emailed Northern Reliability and would need to follow up. (See id.) This falls far short of the kind of candor and cooperation Mr. Beam is now claiming. Moreover, nothing in Former Counsel's Response explains away or excuses the obstruction documented in Mr. Beam's February 11, 2022 email to Mr. Noble. (See CONFIDENTIAL NRI001775, attached as Ex. 21 to TECA's Compel Mem.)

### **CONCLUSION**

Nothing in JSC's Response, Former Counsel's Response, or Emberling's October Affidavit provides a valid basis to deny TECA's request for an order that awards TECA \$67,843.95 plus interest accruing from November 14, 2022, until the date payment is received in full and that holds JSC, Former Counsel, and Emberling jointly and severally liable for the amount awarded.

**DATED** this 17th day of November, 2023.

## Respectfully submitted,

## /s/ W. Brantley Phillips, Jr.

W. Brantley Phillips, Jr. (18844)
Matthew J. Sinback (23891)
Caleb H. Hogan (37412)

BASS BERRY & SIMS PLC
150 Third Avenue South, Suite 2800
Nashville, TN 37201
(615) 742-6200
bphillips@bassberry.com
msinback@bassberry.com
caleb.hogan@bassberry.com

Attorneys for Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association

### **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that on this 17th day of November, 2023, the foregoing document was served on the following persons via email and/or U.S. Mail, postage prepaid:

John A. Beam, III David H. Wood

**EQUITUS LAW ALLIANCE, PLLC** 

P.O. Box 280240 Nashville, TN 37208 beam@equituslaw.com

Steven L. Lefkovitz

LEFKOVITZ AND LEFKOVITZ, PLLC

908 Harpeth Valley Place Nashville, TN 37221

Henry Walker

BRADLEY ARANT BOULT CUMMINGS, LLP

1600 Division Street, Suite 700 Nashville, TN 37203

hwalker@bradley.com

William Shea Forgety
Karl Emmanuel Pulley
115 Shivel Drive
Hendersonville, TN 37075
Shea@ForgetyLaw.com
KarlPulley@aol.com

Larry L. Cash Mark W. Smith

MILLER & MARTIN PLLC

832 Georgia Avenue, Suite 1200 Chattanooga, Tennessee 37402 larry.cash@millermartin.com mark.smith@millermartin.com

Kimberly Bolton

Office of the General Counsel

TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY

400 West Summit Hill Drive Knoxville, TN 37902-1401 kabolton@tva.gov

Jeremy L. Elrod

TENNESSEE MUNICIPAL ELECTRIC POWER ASSOCIATION

212 Overlook Circle, Suite 205

Brentwood, TN 37027 jelrod@tmepa.org

/s/ W. Brantley Phillips, Jr.

## **STATE OF TENNESSEE**

# BEFORE THE TENNESSEE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

## NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

IN RE:	)	
	)	
PETITION OF JACKSON	)	
SUSTAINABILITY COOPERATIVE TO	)	Docket No. 21-0006
DETERMINE IF A CERTIFICATE OF	)	
CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY IS	)	
NEEDED	)	

LIST OF POST-JUNE 2, 2021 EMAILS FROM, TO, OR COPYING JSC PRESIDENT DENNIS EMBERLING, JSC CHIEF FINANACIAL OFFICER DAVID SHIMON, OR JSC FORMER COUNSEL JOHN BEAM

	Beginning	Ending	Email Date
	Bates #	Bates #	Eman Date
1	NRI001232	NRI001232	6/4/21
2	NRI001319	NRI001320	6/4/21
3	NRI001321	NRI001322	6/4/21
4	NRI001413	NRI001413	6/4/21
5	NRI001765	NRI001765	6/5/21
6	NRI001070	NRI001071	6/8/21
7	NRI001317	NRI001318	6/8/21
8	NRI001324	NRI001325	6/8/21
9	NRI001758	NRI001758	6/8/21
10	NRI001771	NRI001771	6/8/21
11	NRI001073	NRI001073	6/11/21
12	NRI001373	NRI001373	6/11/21
13	NRI001374	NRI001375	6/11/21
14	NRI001253	NRI001253	6/13/21
15	NRI001367	NRI001369	6/13/21
16	NRI001075	NRI001075	6/14/21
17	NRI001376	NRI001376	6/14/21
18	NRI001338	NRI001343	6/15/21

	Beginning Bates #	Ending Bates #	Email Date
19	NRI001381	NRI001382	6/15/21
20	NRI001784	NRI001784	6/16/21
21	NRI001079	NRI001080	6/21/21
22	NRI001385	NRI001388	6/21/21
23	NRI001389	NRI001392	6/21/21
24	NRI001669	NRI001671	6/21/21
25	NRI001672	NRI001674	6/21/21
26	NRI001268	NRI001268	6/22/21
27	NRI001344	NRI001350	6/22/21
28	NRI001039	NRI001040	6/23/21
29	NRI001275	NRI001276	6/23/21
30	NRI001277	NRI001278	6/23/21
31	NRI001279	NRI001279	6/23/21
32	NRI001280	NRI001281	6/23/21
33	NRI001076	NRI001076	7/1/21
34	NRI001377	NRI001377	7/1/21
35	NRI000988	NRI000990	7/2/21
36	NRI001355	NRI001356	7/2/21
37	NRI001078	NRI001078	7/4/21
38	NRI001357	NRI001358	7/4/21
39	NRI001384	NRI001384	7/4/21
40	NRI001479	NRI001480	7/4/21
41	NRI001483	NRI001484	7/4/21
42	NRI001260	NRI001260	7/13/21
43	NRI001468	NRI001469	7/14/21
44	NRI000973	NRI000976	7/19/21
45	NRI001265	NRI001267	7/19/21
46	NRI001759	NRI001759	7/19/21
47	NRI001485	NRI001485	7/20/21
48	NRI001286	NRI001288	7/21/21
49	NRI001255	NRI001255	7/22/21
50	NRI001504	NRI001505	7/23/21
51	NRI001506	NRI001507	7/23/21
52	NRI001772	NRI001772	7/23/21
53	NRI001720	NRI001720	7/24/21
54	NRI001745	NRI001746	7/24/21
55	NRI001779	NRI001779	7/24/21
56	NRI001721	NRI001724	7/26/21
57	NRI001725	NRI001726	7/26/21
58	NRI001727	NRI001731	7/26/21
59	NRI001732	NRI001735	7/26/21

	Beginning Bates #	Ending Bates #	Email Date
60	NRI001736	NRI001739	7/26/21
61	NRI001740	NRI001741	7/26/21
62	NRI001742	NRI001744	7/26/21
63	NRI001750	NRI001752	7/26/21
64	NRI001699	NRI001704	7/27/21
65	NRI001705	NRI001709	7/27/21
66	NRI001710	NRI001715	7/27/21
67	NRI001716	NRI001719	7/27/21
68	NRI001748	NRI001749	7/27/21
69	NRI001486	NRI001488	7/28/21
70	NRI001435	NRI001436	7/29/21
71	NRI001437	NRI001438	7/29/21
72	NRI001780	NRI001780	7/29/21
73	NRI001238	NRI001238	7/31/21
74	NRI001239	NRI001239	8/3/21
75	NRI001434	NRI001434	8/4/21
76	NRI001427	NRI001427	8/21/21
77	NRI001510	NRI001510	8/23/21
78	NRI001233	NRI001233	9/16/21
79	NRI001245	NRI001248	9/20/21
80	NRI001449	NRI001452	9/20/21
81	NRI001405	NRI001405	10/13/21
82	NRI000952	NRI000952	11/8/21
83	NRI001414	NRI001415	11/15/21
84	NRI000964	NRI000964	11/20/21
85	NRI000950	NRI000951	11/23/21
86	NRI000966	NRI000966	11/23/21
87	NRI001273	NRI001274	11/23/21
88	NRI001326	NRI001327	11/23/21
89	NRI001372	NRI001372	11/23/21
90	NRI001514	NRI001515	11/24/21
91	NRI001518	NRI001519	11/24/21
92	NRI000963	NRI000963	11/26/21
93	NRI001298	NRI001298	11/26/21
94	NRI001034	NRI001035	11/30/21
95	NRI000953	NRI000953	12/1/21
96	NRI001316	NRI001316	12/6/21
97	NRI000972	NRI000972	12/17/21
98	NRI001380	NRI001380	12/17/21
99	NRI001336	NRI001337	12/18/21
100	NRI001231	NRI001231	12/31/21

	Beginning Bates #	Ending Bates #	Email Date
101	NRI001461	NRI001461	1/6/22
102	NRI001774	NRI001774	1/14/22
103	NRI001243	NRI001243	1/21/22
104	NRI001453	NRI001454	1/30/22
105	NRI001242	NRI001242	2/2/22
106	NRI000962	NRI000962	2/6/22
107	NRI001775	NRI001775	2/11/22
108	NRI001378	NRI001378	3/1/22
109	NRI001760	NRI001760	3/16/22
110	NRI001371	NRI001371	3/24/22
111	NRI001513	NRI001513	3/24/22

## In The Matter Of:

Before the Tennessee Public Utility Commission Nashville, Tennessee

> Docket No 21-00061 June 21, 2022

## nashvillecourtreporters

Online Scheduling: ncrdepo.com | 615.885.5798

Original File 2022-06-21 TPUC Docket No 21-00061.txt

Min-U-Script® with Word Index

BEFORE THE TENNESSEE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE	1
IN RE:  PETITION OF JACKSON SUSTAINABILITY COOPERATIVE TO DETERMINE IF A CERTIFICATE DOCKET NO. 21-00061 OF CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY IS NEEDED  )	
TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS  Tuesday, June 21, 2022	

## Docket No 21-00061 - June 21, 2022

```
2
1
    APPEARANCES:
    Hearing Officer:
                                Ms. Monica Smith-Ashford
2
    For TPUC:
                                Mr. Ryan L. McGehee
3
    (via telephone:)
                                Ms. Kelly Cashman-Grams
4
    For the Petitioner,
    Jackson Sustainability
5
    Cooperative:
                                Mr. John A. Beam, III
6
    For Tennessee Valley
7
    Authority:
                                Mr. Henry Walker
8
    For Jackson Energy
    Authority:
                                Mr. Larry L. Cash
9
    For Tennessee Electric
10
    Cooperative Association:
                                Mr. W. Brantley Phillips, Jr.
                                Mr. Matthew J. Sinback
    (via telephone:)
                                Mr. Caleb H. Hogan
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
    Reported By:
    Jennifer B. Carollo, LCR, RPR, CCR
25
```

1	(The aforementioned hearing came on to
2	be heard on Tuesday, June 21, 2022, beginning at 10:00
3	A.M., before Monica Smith-Ashford, Hearing Officer,
4	when the following proceedings were had, to-wit:)
5	HEARING OFFICER: Good morning. Today
6	is June 21, 2022, and we're here today for oral
7	arguments on the motions to compel filed on May 20th in
8	Docket No. 21-00061 in re: The petition of Jackson
9	Sustainability Cooperative to determine if a
10	certificate of convenience and necessity is needed.
11	I'm Monica Smith-Ashford, the hearing
12	officer, in this matter.
13	Would the parties please introduce
14	themselves for the record starting with the petitioner.
15	MR. BEAM: John Beam for the
16	petitioner. Mr. Emberling is here as well. Dennis
17	Emberling.
18	HEARING OFFICER: And could you go
19	ahead and state the name of who you represent as well?
20	MR. BEAM: I represent Jackson
21	Sustainability Cooperative, the petitioner in this
22	matter.
23	HEARING OFFICER: Thank you. Go ahead,
24	Mr. Phillips.
25	MR. PHILLIPS: This is Brant Phillips

	58
1	HEARING OFFICER: So JSC does not have
2	a 30-day document retention policy?
3	MR. BEAM: JSC has no need for such a
4	policy. There's not a lot of email communications. I
5	suspect when it becomes operational, once the facility
6	is built, that they will have such a policy, whether
7	it's 60 or 90 days, but there will be an auto delete
8	policy unless it's critical to a job and then
9	they'll then they will retain it.
10	HEARING OFFICER: So in the over 200
11	emails that TECA received from Northern Reliability,
12	Mr. Emberling was some of those emails were to
13	Mr. Emberling?
14	MR. BEAM: To and from Mr. Emberling,
15	yes.
16	HEARING OFFICER: And were they to and
17	from his JSC email address?
18	MR. BEAM: No. No. They were they
19	were from EA Solar and/or Community Development
20	Enterprises. Those are the two primary sources.
21	Mr. Emberling has an unrelated business they named that
22	there was I'm sure a few from there. They do other
23	work with Northern Reliability.
24	HEARING OFFICER: Okay. And let me ask
25	you this. I know that in your discovery responses,

## **Exhibit C**

**To:** 'tpuc.docketroom@tn.gov'[tpuc.docketroom@tn.gov];

'Ectory.R.Lawless@tn.gov'[Ectory.R.Lawless@tn.gov]

**Cc:** 'Monica.Smith-Ashford@tn.gov'[Monica.Smith-Ashford@tn.gov]; Phillips, Brant[BPhillips@bassberry.com]; Hogan, Caleb[caleb.hogan@bassberry.com]; 'John Beam'[beam@equituslaw.com]; 'hwalker@bradley.com'[hwalker@bradley.com]; 'Mark Smith'[Mark.Smith@millermartin.com]; 'Larry Cash'[Larry.Cash@millermartin.com]; 'ielrod@tmepa.org'[ielrod@tmepa.org]

From: Sinback, Matthew

**Sent:** Mon 5/16/2022 3:30:18 PM

Subject: Docket 21-00061 - CONFIDENTIAL Non-Party Northern Reliability Supplemental Document

Production of May 12, 2022

Dkt 21-00061 - 2022.05.16 Cover Letter from TECA Re Northern Reliability Supplemental Production.pdf

Ms. Lawless,

On behalf of Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association ("TECA"), please accept for filing the **CONFIDENTIAL** documents produced by non-party Northern Reliability, Inc. on May 12, 2022 in response to TECA's subpoena. Northern Reliability, Inc. has requested that these documents be treated as **CONFIDENTIAL** pursuant to the Amended Protective Order in this docket.

The confidential electronic file produced by Northern Reliability may be downloaded in a zip file from the link below. An index of this production is also included in the zip file. As an additional security measure, a password is required to extract the zip file. The password will be provided in a separate email. The cover letter that will accompany the hard-copy filing of this production is attached.

Click to Retrieve File(s)

 $Northern Reliability\_CONFIDENTIAL\_Subpoena\_Response\_2022.05.12.zip$ 

If the above link is not clickable, copy and paste the following URL into your browser.

 $\underline{https://www.sendthisfile.com/YVEcLgNICZmpAzf8vqfzOqfH}$ 

Note: These files will expire in 14 days from the time this email was generated.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions. Hard copies of these documents will be filed promptly.

Best regards, Matt Sinback



Matt Sinback Senior Litigation Attorney

Bass, Berry & Sims PLC 150 Third Avenue South, Suite 2800 • Nashville, TN 37201 615-742-7910 phone • (615)-248-8791 fax

msinback@bassberry.com • www.bassberry.com

#### BASS BERRY + SIMS

Matthew J. Sinback msinback@bassberry.com (615) 742-7910

May 16, 2022

#### Via Hand Delivery

Hon. Kenneth C. Hill, Chairman c/o Ectory Lawless, Esq., Docket Manager Tennessee Public Utility Commission 502 Deaderick Street, 4th Floor Nashville, TN 37243 tpuc.docketroom@tn.gov

Re: Petition of Jackson Sustainability Cooperative to Determine if a Certificate of Convenience and Necessity Is Needed

Docket No. 21-00061

Dear Chairman Hill:

Enclosed please find a hard copy of the CONFIDENTIAL documents produced by non-party Northern Reliability, Inc. on May 12, 2022 in response to the subpoena of the Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association. Northern Reliability has designated these documents as CONFIDENTIAL pursuant to the Second Amended Protective Order that governs this docket. The bates numbers included are NRI000950 to NRI001787. Electronic copies of these documents were filed electronically on May 16, 2022.

For your convenience, an index of Northern Reliability's May 12, 2022 CONFIDENTIAL production is included. The "Production Folder" column provides information on the electronic folder in which each document was included in Northern Reliability's production. The "Production File Name" column provides information on the electronic file name of each document. Please note that four of the documents produced by Northern Reliability and included on the index are native-format copies of documents previously produced by Northern Reliability. Because they were previously filed, they have not been included in this filing.

Should you have any questions concerning the enclosed, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Matthew J. Sinback

May 16, 2022 Page 2

Enclosure

cc: All Counsel of Record (letter only)