

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

IN RE:)	
)	
PETITION OF CARTWRIGHT)	
CREEK, LLC REQUESTING)	DOCKET NO. <u>21-00119</u>
APPROVAL OF)	
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS)	

**PETITION OF CARTWRIGHT CREEK, LLC
REQUESTING APPROVAL OF
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS**

Cartwright Creek, LLC (“Cartwright Creek”) asks the Tennessee Public Utility Commission (“the Commission”) to issue an order authorizing Cartwright Creek to spend a total of up to \$19,436.10 from the utility’s tap fee escrow account created in Docket 09-00056 or from the utility’s Capital Improvements Surcharge account created in Docket 16-00127 in order to pay for the installation of fifteen manual valves in the irrigation field at Arrington Retreat. Spending from either escrow account requires Commission approval.

The repairs are described in detail in the attached testimony of Bruce Meyer, operations manager for Cartwright Creek, LLC. In sum, the new valves will prevent the treatment cells from possibly overflowing during the coming winter. The new valves have been installed but no money has been paid from the escrow accounts pending approval of this petition.

For the reasons explained in Mr. Meyer’s testimony, Cartwright Creek asks the Commission to allow the utility to spend up to \$19,436.10 from a utility escrow account to make these repairs to the Arrington Retreat system.

Respectfully submitted,

By:



Henry Walker (B.P.R. No. 000272)
Bradley Arant Boult Cummings, LLP
1600 Division Street, Suite 700
Nashville, TN 37203
Phone: 615-252-2363
Email: hwalker@babbc.com

Attorneys for Cartwright Creek, LLC

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

3 **A1.** My name is Bruce Meyer and my business address is 6545 Cox Road, College Grove, TN
4 37046.

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

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

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

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

11 **Q4. WHAT ARE YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES AS THE OPERATIONS MANAGER**
12 **FOR CARTWRIGHT CREEK, LLC.?**

13 **A4.** I am responsible for the day-to-day operation, engineering and permitting for Cartwright
14 Creek, LLC (“Cartwright Creek”).

15 **Q5. WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF YOUR TESTIMONY IN THIS PROCEEDING?**

16 **A5.** The purpose of this testimony is to request use of escrowed funds to pay for irrigation
17 system improvements at Cartwright Creek’s Arrington Retreat wastewater treatment
18 system.

1 ***Q6. PLEASE DESCRIBE THE BACKGROUND AND THE REASON FOR THIS***
2 ***REQUEST.***

3 ***A6.*** The wastewater treatment system for the Arrington Retreat development was constructed
4 in 2009 and consists of two series-operated lined treatment cells (lagoons) and 10 acres of spray
5 irrigation for wastewater dispersal to serve the 225 homes. The treatment cells are designed with
6 a fixed-level lower volume for treatment and a variable upper level as “storage” when irrigation is
7 not possible due to rain, cold weather, or maintenance. The operation plan requires more irrigation
8 in the summer and fall so that more storage is available in the winter when irrigation is reduced.

9
10 The spray irrigation system consists of underground piping and valves connecting to
11 approximately 50 above-ground spray irrigation nozzles. The irrigation area is split into 15
12 irrigation “zones” with an automatic irrigation valve for each zone opened and closed by an
13 irrigation controller. The system is designed to rotate zone operation and evenly disperse the
14 treated wastewater automatically.

15
16 ***Q7. WHAT FEATURE OF THE IRRIGATION SYSTEM REQUIRES IMPROVEMENT?***

17 ***A7.*** The original installation of the irrigation system did not include any manual shut-off valves
18 before the 15 automatic valves. The automatic valves require frequent maintenance, requiring
19 disassembly and part replacement. Because there were no manual valves, the entire irrigation
20 system needed to be shut down to service an automatic valve. When the irrigation system is off,
21 the “storage” volume in the treatment cells begins to fill, and more irrigation is later required to

1 catch up. However, the TDEC permit limits the daily irrigation volume based upon soils and
2 weather.

3
4 **Q8. WHAT PROBLEM HAS THIS FEATURE CREATED FOR CARTRWIGHT CREEK?**

5 **A8.** Shutting down the system to repair single or multiple valves and storing treated wastewater
6 didn't create a problem when there were fewer homes and influent flow was low. However, now
7 that all the houses in the development are occupied and influent flow is high, shutting off the entire
8 irrigation system is problematic because the storage volume fills faster.

9
10 Early this year, several automatic valves needed maintenance and irrigation was down for an
11 extended period. In addition, there has been higher than average rain this year, further reducing
12 irrigation. As a result, water levels in the treatment cells rose higher than normal for spring and
13 summer operation. The concern was that if the trend continued, the treatment cells would
14 eventually fill above its permitted level and in worse case overflow.

15 **Q9. WHAT SOLUTION WAS PROPOSED FOR THE PROBLEM?**

16 **A9.** In the spring, it was apparent that the system needed a manual shut-off valve in each zone
17 so that irrigation could continue during automatic valve maintenance. Precision Plumbing, a
18 contractor we regularly use, provided a proposal for \$19,436. It included the 15 manual valves,
19 valve boxes, fittings, and below-ground installation. A copy of the contractor's proposal is
20 attached.

1 ***Q10. HAVE THE IRRIGATION VALVES BEEN INSTALLED YET?***

2 ***A10.*** The proposal was signed on June 15, allowing the contractor to order materials. However,
3 the manual valves were on backorder. During the summer, increased rain and failed automatic
4 valves reduced irrigation, and the treatment cell storage volume continued to fill. It was critical
5 for Cartwright Creek to be able to irrigate enough to lower the cell levels so that the system would
6 make it through the winter without the level in the cells exceeding its permit and possibly
7 overflowing. Therefore, I authorized the installation to process when the valves were available in
8 mid-September. The work was completed on September 30, but no money has been paid from the
9 escrow accounts pending approval of this petition.

10

11 ***Q11. DOES THIS COMPLETE YOUR TESTIMONY?***

12 ***A11.*** Yes, it does.



PRECISION PLUMBING COMPANY, INC
7101 OLD HICKORY BLVD
WHITES CREEK, TN 37189
615-876-8603

Outside Estimate

7/10/21
6-15

Estimate #	22934
Date	6/14/2021
JOB ADDRESS	
CARTWRIGHT CREEK 6545 COX RD	

Customer
CARTWRIGHT CREEK 6545 COX RD COLLEGE GROVE, TN 37046

Description	Total
REVISED 6/14/21 - UPDATED MATERIAL COST REVISED 04/30/21 - UPDATED MATERIAL COST *** BALL VALVE INSTALLATION *** PRICE INCLUDES DIGGING UP EXISTING 4" PVC IRRIGATION LINE IN FRONT OF 15 RAIN BIRD VALVES AND INSTALLING 15 SCH80 TRUE UNION BALL VALVES FOR ISOLATING EACH RAIN BIRD VALVE FOR MAINTENANCE. PRICE ALSO INCLUDES INSTALLING A BOX ON EACH INSTALLED VALVE. PRICE INCLUDES ROUGH COVER AFTER INSTALLATION. PRICE WILL CHANGE IF PIPE IS A DIFFERENT SIZE OR MATERIAL AND OTHER MATERIAL WILL NEED TO BE ORDERED. TOTAL	19,436.10

ESTIMATE EXPIRES AFTER 30 DAYS	Total \$19,436.10
--------------------------------	--------------------------