

June 7, 2023

VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

Hon. Herbert H. Hilliard, Chairman c/o Ectory Lawless, Docket Room Manager Tennessee Public Utility Commission 502 Deaderick Street, 4th Floor Nashville, TN 37243 TPUC.DocketRoom@tn.gov Electronically Filed in TPUC Docket Room on June 7, 2023 at 5:14 p.m.

RE: Expedited Joint Application of Limestone Water Utility Operating Company, LLC, and DSH & Associates, LLC, for Approval of the Acquisition of and to Operate the Wastewater System of DSH & Associates, LLC, and to Transfer or Issue a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity

TPUC Docket No. 23-00016

Dear Chairman Hilliard:

Please find enclosed Limestone Water Utility Operating Company, LLC's responses to the requests from the Consumer Advocate Division, dated April 11, 2023.

The original and four (4) hard copies will follow. Please feel free to reach out to me if you have any further questions.

Sincerely,

BUTLER SNOW LLP

Katherine Brames

Katherine Barnes

Enclosure

cc: Russ Mitten, Limestone Water Utility Operating Company Vance Broemel, Consumer Advocate Division Karen H. Stachowski, Consumer Advocate Division

The Pinnacle at Symphony Place 150 3rd Avenue South, Suite 1600 Nashville, TN 37201 KATHERINE B. BARNES 615.651.6797 katherine.barnes@butlersnow.com

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June 7, 2023

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Mason Rush
Assistant Attorney General
Office of the Tennessee Attorney General
Consumer Advocate Division
P.O. Box 20207
Nashville, TN 37202
TPUC.DocketRoom@tn.gov

RE: Expedited Joint Application of Limestone Water Utility Operating Company, LLC, and DSH & Associates, LLC, for Approval of the Acquisition of and to Operate the Wastewater System of DSH & Associates, LLC, and to Transfer or Issue a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity

TPUC Docket No. 23-00016

Dear Mr. Rush:

Please find below Limestone's responses to your data requests dated April 11, 2023.

Rule 1220-04-13-.17(2)(a) General Information

1. Rule 1220-04-13-.17(2)(a)7(i,iii-v). The map in Exhibit 1 lacks sufficient detail to comply with the rule. The map does provide street names in accordance with subsection (ii), however, this rule requires a list of other details that are not provided in Exhibit 1. While maps may have been filed in previous dockets, the Joint Petitioners should file the most current maps available in this docket so that the public can readily assess them in this proceeding. Please provide a map or maps that satisfy Rule 1220-04-13-.17(2)(a)7.

<u>Response</u>: Please find attached **Revised Collective Exhibit 1** to the Joint Application. This exhibit includes an updated map and an Engineering Report. Read together, these documents provide all the available details outlined above.

Rule 1220-04-14-.08(2) Acquisitions

1. Rule 1220-04-14-.08(2)e. The statement in Exhibit 1 lacks sufficient detail to comply with the rule, as it does not "comprehensively describe the service area of the selling utility" and the maps provided in Exhibit 1 do not contain the information required in the rule

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T 615.651.6700 F 615.651.6701 www.butlersnow.com governing wastewater utility maps and records. Under Rule 1220-04-13-.05, a wastewater utility "shall keep on file in its main office suitable maps, plans, and records showing the entire layout of its wastewater system including the location, size and capacity of each component." Please provide a comprehensive description of the area, and maps that satisfy this rule and Rule 1220-04-13-.05.

<u>Response</u>: Please see the Service Area Legal Description section within the **Revised** Collective Exhibit 1.

2. Rule 1220-04-14-.08(2)1. On page 8 of the "Appendix A" to the Petition, the Company states that the required statement is "contained in the Joint Application." However, the Consumer Advocate is unable to locate a statement specifically addressing "the particular benefits, costs, or service changes, if any, that affect acquired customers and/or existing customers." Please provide this statement.

Response: Although Limestone details below various benefits supporting a potential acquisition premium to comply with the updated Filing Requirements adopted by the TN PUC, the Company is not requesting an acquisition premium in the current case and the Commission will not be asked to approve any acquisition adjustments related to the purchase of DSH's assets as Limestone is proposing to defer these issues to a future rate case. However, approving the proposed transfer of wastewater assets currently owned by DSH & Associates, LLC would be in the public interest. The affiliated group to which Limestone Water UOC belongs has demonstrated it has the managerial and operational expertise and experience necessary to own and operate the subject systems. It also has access to capital necessary to repair and upgrade those systems to ensure they comply with all health and environmental regulations and provide safe and reliable service to customers.

CSWR, LLC, and its affiliated utility operating companies have a proven track record of acquiring small, oftentimes distressed, water and wastewater systems, making the repairs and upgrades those systems require, and operating them in a way that pleases utility and environmental regulators alike. As evidence of their successes, utility, and environmental regulators in several states where affiliates currently operate have sought out those affiliates and asked them to become the emergency operator of systems in need of immediate aid. The Missouri Public Service Commission and the Missouri Department of Natural Resources have recognized the solid track record CSWR, and its affiliates have established for acquiring, rehabilitating, maintaining, and operating troubled water and wastewater systems in that state.

As its website expressly states, the mission of CSWR and its affiliates is to bring safe, reliable, and environmentally responsible water resources to every community in the United States. As it works to accomplish that objective, the group is transforming how water utilities work by using technology and innovation to quickly assess and invest in reliable infrastructure that meets or exceeds stringent state and federal safety standards, ensuring all communities across the country have access to safe, clean, and reliable water

resources while protecting the aquifers, lakes, rivers, and streams that are essential to our world.

Technical resources and operational expertise that would be available to DSH customers already have greatly improved the quality of utility service provided to customers of affiliates in Missouri, Arkansas, Louisiana, Kentucky, Texas, and Mississippi. CSWR has on staff engineers and other trained and qualified personnel with experience in the design and operation of water and wastewater systems, and CSWR supplements those resources with qualified and licensed local contract operators who are responsible for day-to-day plant operations. Access to these and other resources available through its affiliation with CSWR would allow Limestone Water to achieve economies of scale not generally available to similarly sized water and wastewater utilities. The affiliated group's business model makes this expertise and experience available to affiliates and does so through economies of scale that can be achieved because of CSWR's centralized management structure.

CSWR also has developed and implemented operating processes and technologies that improve service to customers. If authorized to make the acquisition proposed in this application, Limestone Water plans to implement operational changes specifically designed to improve and enhance customer service. Customers would have access to a 24-hour phone line to report any utility service issues. Information received from those calls would then be transferred into CSWR's computerized maintenance management system and converted into work orders, which creates a historical record of all reported service issues. The work order also ensures contracted customer service personnel can quickly commence work required to deal with issues affecting service efficiently and expeditiously.

CSWR utilizes the Computerized Maintenance Management System (CMMS), program Utility Cloud to facilitate field work, inspections, maintenance schedules, and reporting for all facilities. This allows CSWR to manage data, work, and compliance across plant and distributed field assets. Utility Cloud has been implemented to assist in avoiding compliance and equipment failures with real-time data monitoring across people, machines, and sensors throughout all our service areas.

The main benefit that Utility Cloud offers CSWR is that the system is highly configurable, easy-to-use asset management tool that helps all parties distribute work, report on maintenance, and streamline compliance reports. With the system being highly configurable CSWR can build out the systems efficiently and begin tracking maintenance and improvements day one of ownership.

It is paramount to our operations that this product is used, and a big proponent of that is the ease of use. Most of the end users of this system require only a 4-hour training session to be able to navigate, create and assign work, and complete the Work Orders. The ability to get our contractors trained so quickly speaks volumes to how easy the system is to operate. That initial training is adequate for 90% of our operators.

Features of Utility Cloud that have been beneficial to our operations and streamlined time consuming processes consist of:

- Automating the completion and submission of compliance reports using the exact field
- data your crew collects.
- Utilize custom accounts, security roles, and user rights to maintain the separation
- between projects and managing multiple contractors while storing all CSWR's data in one database.
- Manage and track maintenance history on all assets to assist in identifying potential
- capital improvement projects.
- Created custom alerts to trigger as issues arise.
- Leveraging digital SOPs, manuals, and layouts helping standardize complex work and to
- meet regulatory and OSHA requirements.
- Create powerful workflows and reports for our compliance objectives.
- Integration with the survey database to create a useable asset for field work tracking, utilizing real-time data and leveraging analytical tools to trend plant performance.

As part of the CSWR's arsenal of tools utilized, Utility Cloud is pivotal in the operation and maintenance of the facilities that take over. The ability to create custom workflows gives us the ability to collect asset and task specific data quickly and efficiently. Utilizing this system allows for CSWR to quickly implement new processes that are applicable for all our sites across the country with the click of a button. This is the type of configuration scalability that CSWR requires and Utility Cloud delivers.

Limestone Water also would ensure customers have access to customer service representatives during normal business hours to discuss customer concerns. Additionally, Limestone Water will establish a utility-specific webpage and dedicated email address to keep customers informed about their utility service. Information available on the website would include state mandated drinking water testing information, up-to-date website bulletins about current service status, and service initiation or discontinuance procedures. Limestone Water also will also implement a dedicated social media page to offer another avenue of communication with customers. Limestone Water also will offer online bill paying options to customers including e-checks. debit card, and credit cards.

Due to all of the above, the existing customers of Limestone Water UOC and the existing customers of DSH would benefit from the proposed transaction. The technical, managerial, and financial capabilities of Limestone Water and its parent company CSWR will provide economies of scale that cannot be recognized by systems the size of DSH. As such, the Company believes that an Acquisition Premium is prudent for all affected parties.

Further, certain benefits, efficiencies and service changes are outlined in the Pre-filed Direct Testimony of Limestone Witness Josiah Cox.

3. Rule 1220-04-14-.08(2)m. Exhibit 29 to the Petition shows contributed assets from DSH. However, the "year of report" is 2021. Please provide the same page from DSH's most recent annual report.

<u>Response</u>: Please see attached a **Revised Exhibit 29** to the Joint Application for the most recent annual report provided by DSH & Associates, LLC.

Rule 1220-04-14-.08(5) Acquisitions

1. Rule 1220-04-14-.08(5). Limestone & DSH provided a copy of the draft Customer Notification Letter as Exhibit 13 of the Petition. Please provide a copy of proof of the published public notice.

<u>Response</u>: Please see attached the Customer Notification Letter, filed as **Supplemental Exhibit 13**, that was sent to DSH customers on May 26, 2023.

Please feel free to reach out to me if you have any further questions.

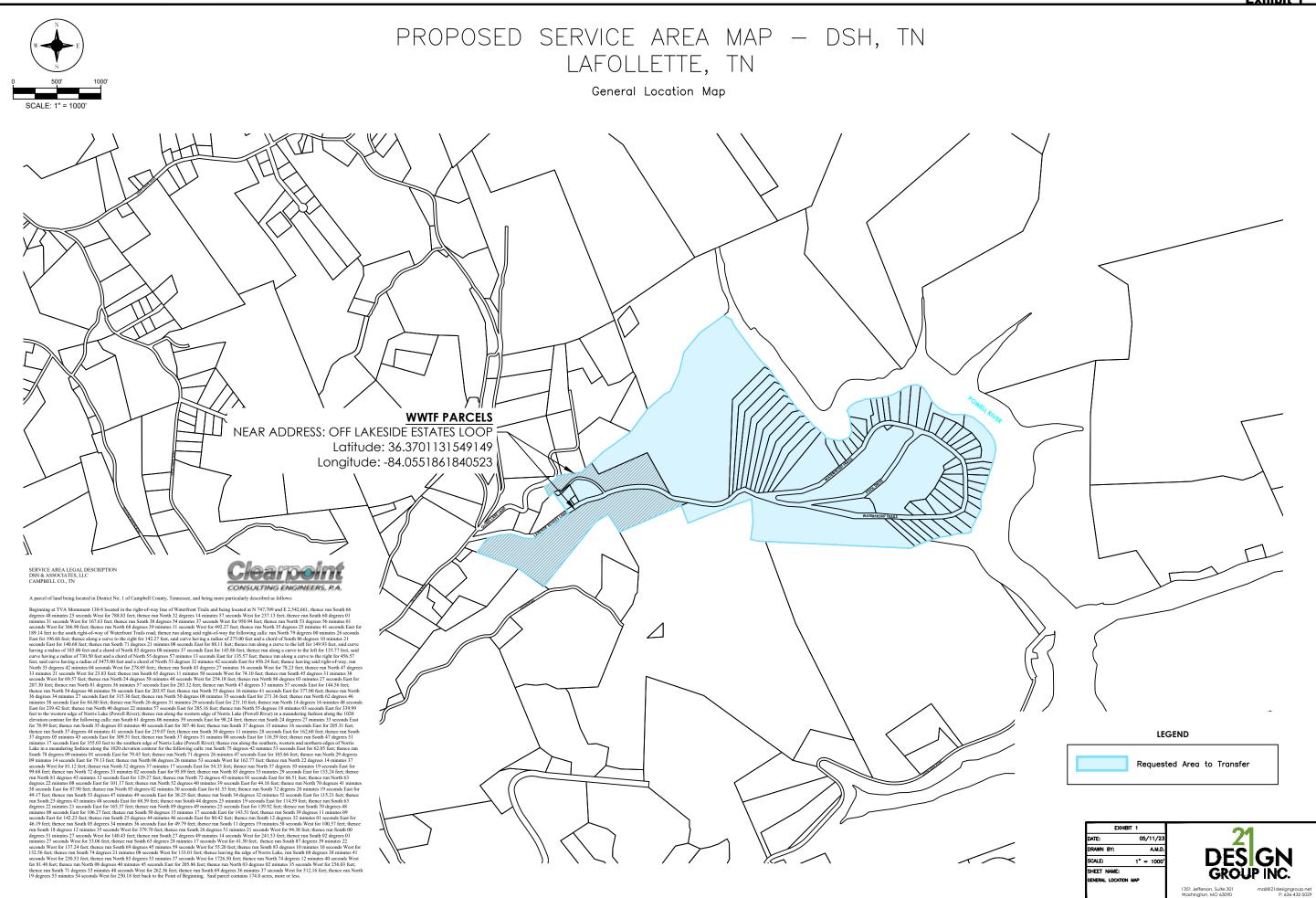
Sincerely,

BUTLER SNOW LLP

Katherine Brames

Katherine Barnes

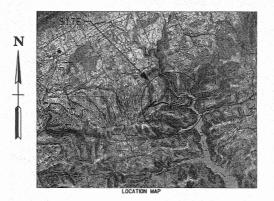
cc: Russ Mitten, Limestone Water Utility Operating Company Vance Broemel, Consumer Advocate Division Karen H. Stachowski, Consumer Advocate Division



LAFOLLETTE UTILITIES BOARD

CAMPBELL COUNTY, TENNESSEE

FOR
LAKESIDE ESTATES

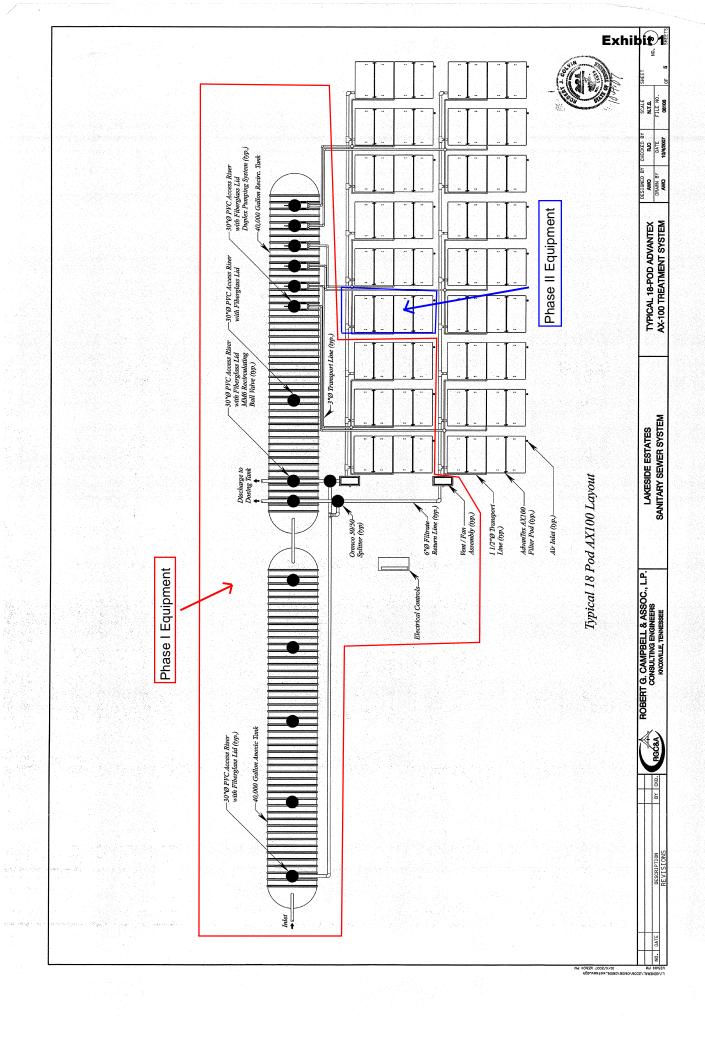


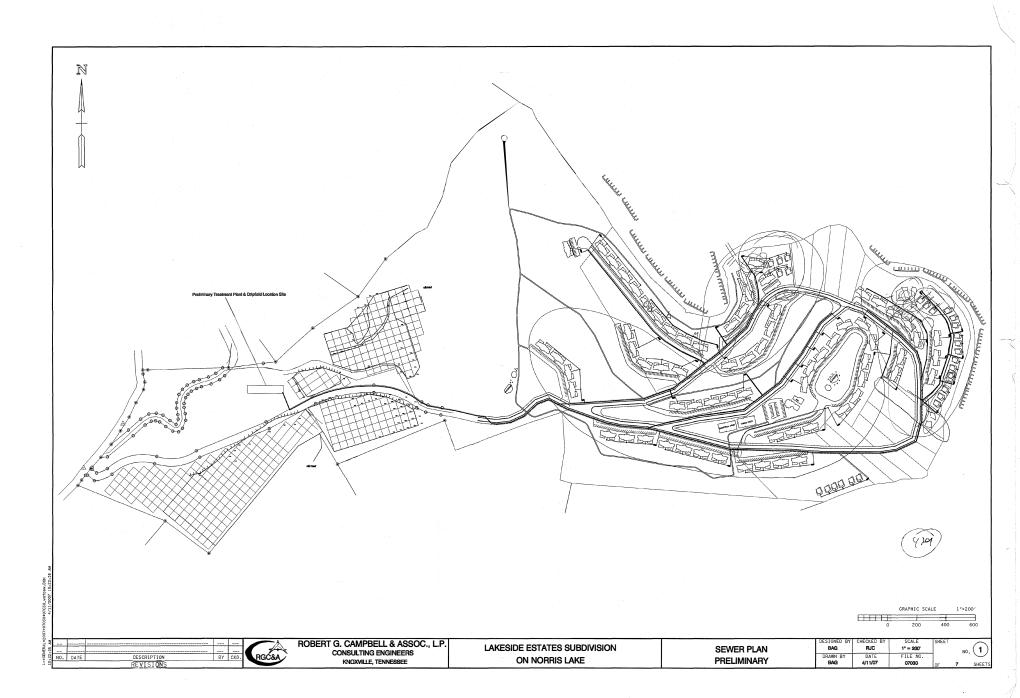
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ROBERT G. CAMPBELL & ASSOCIATES , L.P. CONSULTING ENGINEERS KNOXVILLE , TENNESSEE APPROVED BY:

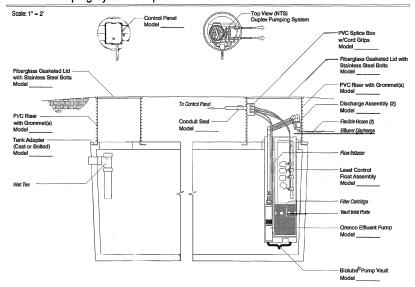
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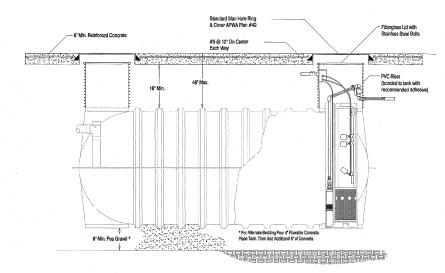


Effluent Pumping System - Duplex



Orenco Fiberglass Tank with H-20 Traffic Load

Orenco 1,500 gal. Fiberglass Tank

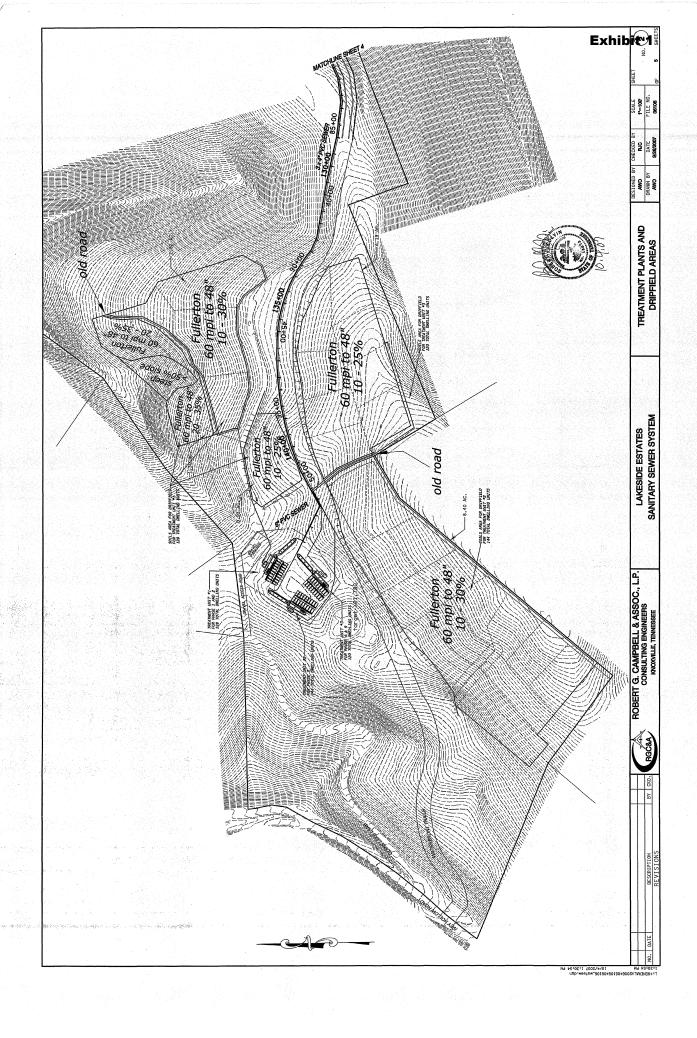


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NO.	DATE	DESCRIPTION	BY	CKD.	RGĆ&
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ROBERT G. CAMPBELL & ASSOC.,	L.P
CONSULTING ENGINEERS	
KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE	

PUMP AND SEPTIC TANK		
DESIGN VIEW		

DRAWN BY BAG	DATE 4/11/07	FILE NO. 07030	OF	7
BAG	RJC	NTS	1	N
DESIGNED BY	CHECKED BY	SCALE	SHEET	



Name of Respondent	This Report is:		Date of Report	Year of Report	
OSH & Associates, LLC (1) _X_ An Original (2) A Resubmission			(Mo, Da, Yr)		
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Balance First of Year		-	-		
Add Credits During Year			137,557	137,557	
Less Charges During Year					
Balance End of Year		0	137,557	137,557	
Less Accumulated Amortization			-	-	
Net Contributions in Aid of Const	ruction	0	137,557	137,557	
ADDITIONS TO CONTRIBUTION	ONS IN AID OF CONSTRUCT	TION DURING VE	AR (CREDITS)		
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Report below all developers or co	ntractors agreements from	Indicate "Cash"			
which cash or property was recei		or "Property"	Water	Sewer	
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Contractor or Developer #8			-	-	
Contractor or Developer #8 Contractor or Developer #9				-	
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May 26th, 2023

Dear Current Customer of DSH & Associates, LLC,

Limestone Water Utility Operating Company, LLC. (Limestone Water) and DSH & Associates, LLC (DSH) have filed a joint application with the Tennessee Public Utility Commission (TPUC) seeking Commission authorization for DSH to sell to Limestone Water its sewer system assets. DSH is currently serving approximately 46 connections in Campbell County.

If the proposal is approved by the TPUC, Limestone Water be subject to the jurisdiction of the TPUC in the following service areas:

DSH

Limestone Water proposes to adopt the existing rate structure for all customers.

After completing the proposed acquisition of these service areas, Limestone Water plans to construct numerous improvements to the systems to address degradation due to age and environmental compliance issues.

Those wishing to comment should contact the TN Public Utility Commission at:

502 Deaderick Street 4th Floor Nashville, TN 37243 (800) 342-8359 675-747-2904 contact.tpuc@tn.gov

Refer to TPUC Docket Number <u>23-00016</u> in all correspondence.

If you have questions, please contact Limestone Water at 314-736-4672 or the above public office of the Tennessee Public Utility Commission.

Sincerely,

Josiah Cox

Limestone Utility Operating Company, LLC



