## BEFORE THE TENNESSEE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

## NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

**November 15, 2024** 

IN RE:	)
JOINT APPLICATION OF LIMESTONE WATER	) DOCKET NO.
UTILITY OPERATING COMPANY, LLC AND	23-00077
CUMBERLAND BASIN WASTEWATER SYSTEMS, LLC	)
FOR APPROVAL OF THE ACQUISITION OF AND TO	)
OPERATE THE WASTEWATER SYSTEM OF	)
CUMBERLAND BASIN WASTEWATER SYSTEMS, LLC	)
AND TO ISSUE A CERTIFICATE OF CONVENIENCE	)
AND NECESSITY	)

## ORDER GRANTING ELECTRONIC PARTICIPATION IN HEARING

This matter is before the Administrative Judge upon the *Motion to Appear and Participate at Hearing Telephonically* ("*Motion*") filed by Limestone Water Utility Operating Company, LLC ("Limestone") on November 8, 2024. In its *Motion*, Limestone seeks permission for its witness, Aaron Silas, to participate by telephone in the hearing in the above-captioned matter to be held during the regularly scheduled Commission Conference beginning at 10:00 a.m. (CST) on November 18, 2024. Limestone requests that its witness be allowed to testify by phone because Mr. Silas will be working outside of Tennessee on the date of the hearing and personal appearance would be burdensome.

Under the Tennessee Uniform Administrative Procedures Act, decisions involving telephone participation in a hearing are within the Administrative Judge's discretion:

(c) In the discretion of the administrative judge or hearing officer and agency members and by agreement of the parties, all or part of the hearing may be conducted by telephone, television or other electronic means, if each participant in the hearing has an opportunity to participate in, to hear, and, if technically feasible, to see the entire

proceedings while taking place.1

In accordance with the above-referenced statute and considering that the request was timely filed and that personal appearance by the witness would be burdensome, the Administrative Judge grants Limestone's *Motion*, subject to compliance with the following conditions<sup>2</sup>:

- 1. Petitioner's attorney shall appear personally at the hearing to present and facilitate questioning of the Petitioner's witness.
- 2. The Petitioner's attorney shall provide the Administrative Judge with the witness's correct email address so that the WebEx video link can be emailed to the witness prior to the hearing.
- 3. The witness should join the WebEx videoconference link at least five (5) minutes before the Commission Conference begins, turn his or her camera off, and mute the microphone until this docket is called.
- 4. The witness shall have the technological resources to access the WebEx videoconferencing platform so that the witness can be seen and heard clearly via the provided WebEx link for the hearing.
- 5. If the witness is unable to comply with these conditions or technological difficulties prevents the use of the WebEx videoconferencing platform for the hearing, the hearing may have to be postponed.

## IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:

1. Subject to the conditions set forth in this Order, Limestone Water Utility Operating Company, LLC's witness may appear and participate by telephone in the hearing to be held on November 18, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. (CST).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Tenn. Code Ann § 4-5-312(c).

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> In its *Motion*, Limestone states it will comply with certain conditions the Commission has previously imposed for allowing witnesses to participate electronically. However, the November 18<sup>th</sup> will use the WebEx videoconferencing platform, and the witness will appear on camera and be subject to the conditions set forth in this Order.

2. To avoid disruption of other matters scheduled for the consideration of the Commission, persons authorized to participate electronically shall join the WebEx videoconferencing link at least **five (5) minutes before the start time set for the Commission Conference**. The Commission Conference will begin promptly.

Monica Smith-Ashford, Administrative Judge

cc: Interested Parties Original in Docket File