

CAROL ANN BARRON

ATTORNEY AT LAW

264 THIRD AVENUE DAYTON, TENNESSEE 37321 (423) 775-1884 • FAX: (423) 775-5098 barroncarolann@aol.com

Electronically Filed in TPUC Docket Room on September 27, 2024 at 3:13 p.m.

September 27, 2024

Tennessee Public Utility Commission Andrew Jackson State Office Building, 4th Floor Nashville, Tennessee 37243

RE: Joint Application of Limestone Water Utility Operating Company, LLC and Bridget J. Willhite as Administrator CTA of the Estate of Glenna Newport, for approval of the Acquisition of and to Operate the Newport Resort Water System, and to Transfer or issue a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity Docket No. 24-00034

Dear Sir or Madam:

Enclosed please find the original and four (4) copies of the Supplement Pleadings to the Joint Application of Rhea County, Tennessee and North Utility District of Rhea County's Petition to Intervene, for filing in the above-referenced matter. By copy of this correspondence, I am providing copies of the same by email to all parties in this matter.

Very truly yours,

Carol Ann Barron

Enclosures

cc: TN Public Utilities Commission – Via Email: tpuc.docketroom@tn.gov

Ms. Katherine Barnes – Via Email: Katherine.Barnes@butlersnow.com

Mr. Melvin Malone - Via Email: Melvin Malone @butlersnow.com

Ms. Victoria B. Glover – Via Email Victoria.glover@ag.tn.gov

Ms. Shilina B. Brown – Via Email: shilina.brown@ag.tn.gov

Ms. Michelle Mairs - Via Email: michelle.mairs@tn.gov

Mr. Cole McCormick-Via Email: cole.mccormick@tn.gov

Ms. Terra Allen – Via Email: terra.allen@ag.tn.gov

Mr. Russ Mitten – Via Email: rmitten@cswrgroup.com
Mr. David Woodsmall – Via Email: dwoodsmall@cswrgroup.com

Ms. Bridget J. Whillhite - Via Email: bridget@wmlawfirm.net

IN THE TENNESSEE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION AT NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

IN RE:)	
)	
JOINT APPLICATION OF LIMESTONE)	
WATER UTILITY OPERATING COMPANY, LLC)	DOCKET NO. 24-00034
AND BRIDGET J. WHILHITE, AS ADMINISTRATOR)	
CTA OF THE ESTATE OF GLENNA NEWPORT, FOR)	
APPROVAL OF THE ACQUISITION OF AND TO)	
OPERATE THE NEWPORT RESORT WATER SYSTEM,)	
AND TO TRANSFER OR ISSUE A CERTIFICATE OF)	
PUBLIC CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY)	

SUPPLEMENTAL PLEADINGS OF RHEA COUNTY, TENNESSEE AND NORTH UTILITY DISTRICT OF RHEA COUNTY TO JOINT PETITION TO INTERVENE

Rhea County, Tennessee and North Utility District of Rhea County, by and through counsel, do hereby file Supplemental Pleadings to set forth materially important transactions or occurrences and events which have happened since the date of the pleadings sought to be supplemented and to dispute the erroneous statements set forth in Limestone's Response to Consumer Advocate's Statement Regarding Limestone's Opposition to Petition to Intervene filed by Rhea County, Tennessee, and North Utility District of Rhea County in the above-referenced docket.

For cause, Rhea County, Tennessee and North Utility District of Rhea County ("NUDRC") would show as follows:

- 1. That since the filing of the Petition to Intervene, material events and transactions have occurred and events have happened such that NUDRC has become the sole provider of water service to all of Newport Resort Water System ("Newport") customers in the Newport Resort territory.
 - 2. On or about August 26, 2024, Newport's pump, servicing their water tank, began

having significant electrical issues, rendering the pump inoperable and forcing the water plant operator to open NUDRC's emergency tap system to fill Newport's water tank to service all of the customers in Newport's area. Since that time the water plant operator has been manually filling Newport's water tank to service all of the customers in Newport's area continuously and no repairs to the electrical system have been made to correct this situation to date.

3. Further, Limestone's Response to Consumer Advocate's Statement Regarding

Limestone's Opposition to Petition to Intervene filed by Rhea County, Tennessee, and North

Utility District of Rhea County, misstates material facts. On Page 2 in the first full paragraph,

lines 6-8, Limestone states:

"Newport Resort's area and customers have never been in NUDRC's territory and NUDRC has no exclusive right to serve Newport Resort's territory and customers."

NUDRC strongly disputes Limestone's erroneous assertion and would show that NUDRC has been serving Newport's customers at Tradewinds Investment Properties, on the real property located at 1041 Whites Creek Road, located in Newport's geographic area by permission of Newport, as set forth in the letter of Bridget Willhite, dated March 22, 2024, (previously electronically filed in TPUC Dock Room on August 21, 2024 at 2:07 p.m.) filed herewith as Exhibit 1 to Supplemental Pleadings. Paragraph 3 of Ms. Whillhite's letter states:

"This correspondence confirms that we have no objection to Tradewinds terminating their connections with NRWS (Newport) and connecting with NUDRC as it will create an emergency back-up for the use of NRWS allowing NUDRC to provide water to NRWS through the connections on Tradewinds Investment Properties as back up water supply to NRWS."

Limestone knew or should have known that their statements were materially false and that NUDRC has absolutely been providing water to Newport Resort area customers, particularly to Tradewinds Investment Properties, for some time now.

4. The cases cited in Limestone's *Response* are distinguishable from this matter since those seeking to intervene in previous cases cited by Limestone did not have the symbiotic relationship that exists between NUDRC and Newport. First, NUDRC is vital to the ongoing day-to-day operation of Newport Water Systems to provide all of the water to its' customers. Second, NUDRC and Newport are currently serving customers in a "de facto" merger. Third, NUDRC is providing water to all of Newport customers through its' emergency water tap, which is physically set at the Newport and NUDRC contiguous boundaries. As such, NUDRC's water tap is vital to the ongoing success of Newport, now and in the future and is so entwined with the day-to-day operations of Newport so as to be acting as one. NUDRC would be pleased to remain the sole water source for all of Newport's customers at no additional expense or interruptions in service which would be of great benefit to the Newport customers and citizens of Rhea County, Tennessee.

WHEREFORE, Rhea County, Tennessee and NUDRC respectfully request that the Commission grant the Petition to Intervene and to permit these Supplement Pleadings to be filed in this cause.

Respectfully Submitted,

RHEA COUNTY, TENNESSEE and NORTH UTILITY DISTRICT OF RHEA COUNTY

By:

Carol Ann Barron

Carol Ann Barron (BPR No. 16580)
County Attorney and Attorney for NUDRC

264 Third Avenue

Dayton, Tennessee 37321 Telephone: (423) 775-1884

barroncarolann@aol.com

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The undersigned hereby certifies that a true and exact copy of the foregoing document has been served upon the following by delivering a true and exact copy of the same via email addressed as follows:

Melvin Malone Katherine Barnes Butler Snow LLP The Pinnacle at Symphony Place 150 Third Avenue South, Suite 1600 Nashville, TN 37201

Email: <u>Melvin.Malone@butlersnow.com</u> Email: <u>Katherine.Barnes@butlersnow.com</u>

Victoria B. Glover
Assistant Attorney General
Shilina B. Brown
Assistant Attorney General
Office of the Tennessee Attorney General
Consumer Advocate Division
P.O. Box 20207
Nashville, Tennessee 37202-0207

Email: Victoria.glover@ag.tn.gov
Email: shilina.brown@ag.tn.gov

Bridget J. Whillhite via Email: bridget@wmlawfirm.net

This 27th day of September 2024.

Law Office of Carol Ann Barron

By: Carol Ann Barron

Carol Ann Barron

Exhibit 1 to Supplemental Pleadings of Intervening Parties



WILLHITE & MITCHELL, PLLC

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

James F. Mitchell, III

Bridget J. Willhite

Partner

main office: 1 East Madison Avenue • P.O. Box 885 • Athens, TN 37371-0885
satellite office: 291-B Abel Avenue • Decatur, TN 37322
p: 423.745.7447 • f: 423.745.6114
www.wmlawfirm.net

March 22, 2024

Electronically Filed in TPUC Docket Room on August 21, 2024 at 2:07 p.m.

North Utility District of Rhea County 23928 Rhea County Hwy. P.O. Box 1089 Spring City, TN 37381

Via Email: office@nudrc.org

24-00034

Re: <u>Tradewinds Investment Properties</u>

Dear Sir or Madam:

I am the Administrator, CTA of the Estate of Glenna Newport. The Estate is the current owner of Newport Resort Water system, (NWRS).

We have received a request from Tradewinds Investment Properties, a partnership consisting of Jason McConkey and Perry Philpot, (Tradewinds): Tradewinds currently owns the real property located at 1041 Whites Creek Rd, Spring City, Tennessee, and they desire to connect directly to North Utility District of Rhea County, (NUDRC) as their water provider at Tradewinds' own cost. Tradewinds is currently a customer of Newport Resort Water System.

This correspondence confirms that we have no objection to Tradewinds terminating their connection with NRWS and connecting with NUDRC as it will create an emergency back-up for the use of NRWS allowing NUDRC to provide water to NRWS through the connections on Tradewinds Investment Properties as back up water supply to NRWS.

Of course, all easements of NRWS will remain existing. by their signatures below, the owners of Tradewinds confirm the terms of this agreement. A formal agreement prepared and recorded at a later date.

North Utility District of Rhea County March 22, 2024 Page 2

With best regards, I remain

Yours very truly,

WILLHITE & MITCHELL, PLLC

Bridget J. Willhite

BJW:mle

APPROVED BY:

TRADEWINDS INVESTMENT PROPERTIES, A General Partnership

Rv

Stapley Jason McConkey, Partner

Pery Evan Philpott, Partner