

24-00034

From: [Contact TPUC](#)
To: [Ectory R. Lawless](#)
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Docket # 24-00034
Date: Monday, July 22, 2024 5:25:09 PM

-----Original Message-----

From: Howard Pick <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, July 22, 2024 3:39 PM
To: Contact TPUC <Contact.TPUC@tn.gov>
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Docket # 24-00034

We are currently customers of Newport Resort Water System. It is my understanding that the water system (company) is being purchased by Limestone Water. Currently the reliability of our water system is unacceptable. The repairs when the numerous unscheduled outages occur is tenuous at best. The reporting of outages, although there is a system, is not always straightforward, as sometimes phones are not answered and no availability of voice mail. There is no office, repair facility, or accountability. The outages are lengthy in nature. Regularly the repair parts have to be purchased locally, even if they are normal maintenance items. The system may be down for hours to repair a leak where only a coupling is necessary. If there is a leak the whole system is shut down because no one knows if there are shut off valves or if there are where they are located.

I understand that North Utility District of Rhea County (hereafter NUDRC) has or will make an offer to purchase the Newport water system. NUDRC, at their board meeting has stated they would maintain the existing Newport system and upgrade as necessary. It certainly would be in the best interest of the County and the local residents of the community if the water system was owned and operated by a local public utility company. NUDRC has water service adjacent to the community serviced by Newport Water. Furthermore, they have an office, repair facility, ties to the community and a local presence.

Limestone Water is an out of state private water company. It is not in the best interest of this community, county, or state to substitute the the present unreliable water company with an absentee private company with no local offices or repair facilities.

It is therefore my opinion that TPUD should deny any and all applications for licenses to any private water system who could not guarantee a local, within the County, office with repair facilities. The Newport water system has approximately 60 taps. It is inconceivable that an out of the area private company would provide the necessary support without raising the cost of water or unrealistic assessments. An established company such as NUDRC, could provide this community the necessary continuity of service with the least amount of disturbance or economic devastation to the local community.

Please accept this e mail an objection to the licensing of Limestone Water and I support sales of the Newport Water System and licensing to NUDRC.

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPad