

BEFORE THE TENNESSEE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

April 22, 2026

IN RE:)	
)	
PETITION OF LIMESTONE WATER UTILITY)	DOCKET NO.
OPERATING COMPANY, LLC TO INCREASE CHARGES,)	24-00044
FEES AND RATES AND FOR APPROVAL OF A)	
GENERAL RATE INCREASE AND CONSOLIDATED)	
RATES [PHASE 2 RATE INCREASE IMPLEMENTATION])	

PRE-HEARING ORDER

Pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 4-5-306 and Commission Rule 1220-1-2-.12, this matter came before the Administrative Judge of the Tennessee Public Utility Commission (“Commission” or “TPUC”) at a Pre-Hearing Conference held via WebEx on April 21, 2026. The Pre-Hearing Conference was held to establish the orderly conduct of the hearing on the implementation of Phase 2 of the rate increase awarded to Limestone Water Utility Operating Company, LLC (“Limestone”), as set forth in the Commission’s *Order Setting Utility Rates* issued on July 10, 2025. The hearing is scheduled to be held during the Commission Conference scheduled for Tuesday, April 28, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. (CDT). Limestone and the Consumer Advocate Division of the Office of the Tennessee Attorney General (“Consumer Advocate”), the parties in this matter, participated in the Pre-Hearing Conference.

Opportunities for public comment on this matter were held in Counce, TN on March 26, 2026, and Franklin, TN on April 8, 2026. The public will be given an additional opportunity to comment before the hearing on April 28th begins.

PROCEDURAL MATTERS

The following order of the hearing has been established and agreed upon:

I. NOTICE OF HEARING & PUBLIC COMMENT

On April 17, 2026, a *Notice of Hearing* was issued notifying the public that the hearing on the implementation of Phase 2 of the rate increase is to be held during the Commission Conference scheduled for **10:00 a.m. (CDT) on Tuesday, April 28, 2026**. As was included in the notice, members of the public are encouraged to participate by filing written comments in the docket file and/or presenting verbal comments during the hearing.

II. OPENING STATEMENTS

Each party is permitted between 10 and 15 minutes to present an opening statement. Limestone will present its Opening Statement first, followed by the Consumer Advocate.

III. EXHIBITS & DOCUMENTS

At the time of the Pre-Hearing Conference, the parties had previously exchanged exhibit lists. The parties agreed that although the Consumer Advocate had included all exhibits it plans to use at the hearing, even those contained in the docket file, it would not be necessary for Limestone to supplement its list with exhibits that were in the docket file.

Each party should have its own copy of all exhibits, including those appended to pre-filed testimony, available for reference during the hearing. A party should use its own judgment and discretion in determining the total number of copies to have available.

IV. TECHNOLOGICAL AND OTHER SPECIAL REQUESTS

The Parties should inform the Administrative Judge of any requirements as to visual display aids and technology that might be needed during the hearing. So that the appropriate arrangements

may be made, all such requests and information should be provided via email to the Administrative Judge at monica.smith-ashford@tn.gov by April 23, 2026.

V. WITNESSES

During direct examination, a time limit has been established for each witness to summarize the pre-filed testimony, including direct and rebuttal testimony, as applicable. In addition, witnesses should be advised that they should not discuss their testimony with other witnesses, and they remain subject to recall for rebuttal purposes and should remain available throughout the length of the proceedings. The witnesses and time limits are set forth below:

- Limestone will present one witness, Aaron Silas, and he will have 10 minutes to summarize his testimony.
 1. **Aaron Silas** – 10 minutes
- The Consumer Advocate will present two witnesses, William H. “Hal” Novak and Clark Kaml. The witnesses will summarize their testimony in the following order and with the following time limits.
 1. **William H. Novak** – 10 minutes
 2. **Clark Kaml** – 10 minutes

VI. EXAMINATION OF WITNESSES, QUESTIONS BY THE COMMISSION, AND DISCUSSION OF CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION

While re-direct examination of a witness is allowed, the parties are reminded that it is to be limited to matters elicited during cross-examination that require clarification. It is not appropriate to raise new issues during re-direct examination. Re-cross examination is not permitted except in the event that a new issue is raised during the immediately preceding re-direct examination. The parties should be aware that the Commissioners might ask questions at any time during a witness’s testimony and after cross-examination. The Commission’s Advisory Staff will have an opportunity to ask

questions as well.

Prior to asking questions that involve confidential information, the parties should advise the Chairman or presiding Commissioner that confidential information is about to be discussed so that individuals who are not covered by the Protective Order can be asked to leave the Hearing Room and those listening to the proceeding by WebEx can be moved to the WebEx lobby. In addition, the parties should attempt to group together questions concerning confidential information to facilitate this process.

VII. CLOSING STATEMENTS

The parties will present closing statements instead of filing post-hearing briefs. Closing remarks will be presented first by the Consumer Advocate, followed by Limestone. The Consumer Advocate will have 10-15 minutes for its closing. Limestone will have 15-20 minutes to present its closing statements.

VIII. PRELIMINARY MATTERS/MOTIONS

The parties should make the Administrative Judge aware of any preliminary matters as soon as possible in advance of the hearing.


SUMMARY OUTLINE OF HEARING

For the convenience of the presiding panel and the parties, a *Procedural Outline of Hearing* has been provided as Attachment A to this Order.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:

1. Requests for visual aids, the use of technology, and information concerning the technical requirements of the parties shall be provided by electronic mail to the Administrative Judge at monica.smith-ashford@tn.gov by April 23, 2026.

2. The Hearing scheduled to be held during the Commission Conference beginning at **10:00 a.m. CDT** on **April 28, 2026**, shall be conducted in accordance with the requirements and deadlines set forth in this Pre-Hearing Order unless otherwise ordered by the Chairman or presiding Commissioner.


Monica Smith-Ashford, Administrative Judge

ATTACHMENT A

BEFORE THE TENNESSEE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

IN RE:)
)
PETITION OF LIMESTONE WATER UTILITY) **DOCKET NO.**
OPERATING COMPANY, LLC TO INCREASE CHARGES,) **24-00044**
FEES AND RATES AND FOR APPROVAL OF A)
GENERAL RATE INCREASE AND CONSOLIDATED)
RATES [PHASE 2 RATE INCREASE IMPLEMENTATION])

PROCEDURAL OUTLINE OF HEARING

Date/Time: **April 28, 2026; during the Commission Conference beginning at 10:00 a.m. CDT**

Hearing on the Merits

- Hearing Convened by Presiding Commissioner and Introductions

A. Public Comment

B. Preliminary Issues

C. Opening Statements: 10-15 Minutes each

1) Limestone

2) Consumer Advocate

D. Witness Summaries:

Limestone Witness

Aaron Silas

- Oath Administered/Witness Sworn –

Summary of pre-filed testimony 10 minutes

Cross-examination Consumer Advocate

Re-direct examination Limestone

Re-cross examination (if requested & determined appropriate)
Questions TPUC Commissioners and/or Advisory Staff

Consumer Advocate Witness **William H. Novak**

- Oath Administered/Witness Sworn –
Summary of pre-filed testimony 10 minutes
Cross-examination Limestone
Re-direct examination Consumer Advocate
Re-cross examination (if requested & determined appropriate)
Questions TPUC Commissioners and/or Advisory Staff

Consumer Advocate Witness **Clark Kaml**

- Oath Administered/Witness Sworn –
Summary of pre-filed testimony 10 minutes
Cross-examination Limestone
Re-direct examination Consumer Advocate
Re-cross examination (if requested & determined appropriate)
Questions TPUC Commissioners and/or Advisory Staff

E. Closing Statements

- 1) Consumer Advocate: 10-15 minutes
- 2) Limestone: 15-20 minutes

F. Public Comment

G. Hearing Adjourned