

TENNESSEE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

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August 4, 2026

NOTICE THAT THE COMMISSION RECORD IS CLOSED AND FILINGS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED

Docket No. 24-00044:

In re Petition of Limestone Water Utility Operating Company, LLC to Increase Charges, Fees and Rates and for Approval of a General Rate Increase and Consolidated Rates

On April 28, 2026, the Commission held a hearing in this matter regarding Limestone Water Utility Operating Company, LLC's Phase Two rate design to recover the previously authorized revenue deficiency and carrying costs. The hearing was conducted in accordance with the Tennessee Uniform Administrative Procedures Act (UAPA) and the Commission's Practice and Procedure rules.

On August 3, 2026, the Tennessee Public Utility Commission ("Commission") received a filing from the Consumer Advocate Division in the Office of the Tennessee Attorney General ("Consumer Advocate"). Although the filing was submitted as a comment, its contents state that it is a complaint, and that the Commission is handling it as such.¹ Earlier, similar filings were also submitted by the Consumer Advocate in this docket. For the following reasons, the Commission will not accept the complaint as a comment, nor will it accept any filings made after the record closes.

Under Rule 1220-01-02-.16, all exhibits, pre-filed written testimony, and oral evidence must be formally introduced during the hearing phase. Once a hearing concludes, the evidentiary record closes, and no additional evidence or arguments may be submitted or considered in the final decision.² Because closure of the record is strictly enforced to ensure that cases reach a final decision, a party seeking to add information to the record after it is closed must meet a high burden. No new documents or evidence may be submitted unless a party files a motion, which allows the opposing party to respond and requires an explicit ruling from the presiding officer or Commission panel. Once the Commission has issued its final order, a Petition for Reconsideration under Rule 1220-01-02-.20 may be filed within 15 days,

¹ See Tenn. Code Ann. § 65-4-119.

² See also Tenn. Code Ann. § 4-5-314(d) (findings of fact must be based exclusively upon the evidence of record and matters officially noticed).

provided it meets the stringent new-evidence standard.³ Rule 1220-01-02-.20 (1) reads, in pertinent part, as follows:

If the petitioners seek to present new evidence, the petition shall contain a statement of the cause for the failure to introduce the proposed new evidence in the original proceeding, a detailed description of any such new evidence proposed to be introduced, including copies of documents sought to be introduced, identities of proposed witnesses, and summaries of any testimony sought to be presented.

Rule 1220-01-02-.20 (2) (c) goes on to provide, in pertinent:

. . .the party seeking reconsideration may be allowed to present new evidence only if the party shows that good cause existed for the failure to introduce the new evidence at the original hearing, and the opposing party shall be allowed to present rebuttal proof if the party seeking reconsideration is allowed to present new evidence

The Consumer Advocate's filings, submitted after the record closed and without meeting the required burden, will not be considered part of the record in this matter. Furthermore, because the administrative record in this docket is closed, no filings will be accepted.

FOR THE TENNESSEE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION:



Kelly Cashman Grams, General Counsel

³ See also Tenn. Code Ann. § 4-5-317.