

BEFORE THE TENNESSEE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

November 25, 2025

IN RE:

**JOINT PETITION OF TENNESSEE-AMERICAN WATER
COMPANY, AMERICAN WATER WORKS COMPANY,
INC., NEXUS REGULATED UTILITIES, LLC, AND
TENNESSEE WATER SERVICE, INC. FOR
AUTHORIZATION OF CHANGE OF CONTROL,
APPROVAL OF THE AGREEMENT AND PLAN OF
MERGER AND FOR THE ISSUANCE OF A
CERTIFICATE OF CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY**

DOCKET NO.
25-00040

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 Tennessee-American Water Company (“TAWC”) on November 13, 2025. In its *Motion*, TAWC seeks permission for its witness, Linda Schlessman, 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 December 8, 2025. TAWC requests that its witness be allowed to participate in the Hearing telephonically because Ms. Schlessman will be working outside of Middle Tennessee on the date of the Hearing and personal appearance would be burdensome.

Under the Tennessee Uniform Administrative Procedures Act, decisions involving electronic 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 TAWC's *Motion*, subject to compliance with the following conditions²:

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 minutes before the Commission Conference begins, turn 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 prevent 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, Tennessee-American Water Company's witness may appear and participate electronically in the Hearing to be held on December 8, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. (CST).

¹ Tenn. Code Ann § 4-5-312(c) (2021).

² In its *Motion*, TAWC states it will comply with certain conditions the Commission has previously imposed for allowing witnesses to participate electronically. However, the December 8th Commission Conference 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 consideration by 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