

BEFORE THE TENNESSEE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

October 14, 2025

IN RE:

INTEGRATED RESOURCE MANAGEMENT, INC.,
REQUEST PURSUANT TO TPUC RULE 1220-04-13-
.07(7) FOR THE EMERGENCY RELEASE OF
ESCROW FUNDS

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DOCKET NO.
25-00051

ORDER APPROVING INTEGRATED RESOURCE MANAGEMENT, INC.'S PETITION
FOR THE EMERGENCY RELEASE OF ESCROW FUNDS

This matter came before Vice Chairman John Hie, Commissioner Herbert H. Hilliard, Commissioner Robin L. Morrison, Commissioner David Crowell, and Commissioner Kenneth C. Hill of the Tennessee Public Utility Commission (the “Commission” or “TPUC”), the voting panel assigned to this docket, during a regularly scheduled Commission Conference held on September 15, 2025. The panel convened to consider *Integrated Resource Management, Inc., Request Pursuant to TPUC Rule 1220-04-13-.07(7) for the Emergency Release of Escrow Funds* (“*Petition*”) filed by Integrated Resource Management, Inc., d/b/a IRM Utility (“IRM” or “Company”), on July 9, 2025.¹ In its *Petition*, IRM is seeking approval to withdraw \$5,468.71 from its escrow account.²

I. BACKGROUND

On July 9, 2025, IRM filed the *Petition* to release escrow funds to reimburse the Company for expenditures incurred for three repairs totaling \$5,468.71: (1) \$2,220.90 for repair of a broken two-inch main collection line at ISHA Enclave on March 4, 2025; (2) \$1,718.91 for replacement of a failed pump and repair of a STEP system at Flat Hollow on April 8, 2025; and (3) \$1,528.90 for replacement of a

¹ *Integrated Resource Management, Inc. Request Pursuant to TPUC Rule 1220-04-13-.07(7) the Emergency Release of Escrow Funds* (July 9, 2025).

² *Id.* at 1.

failed pump at Towering Oaks on June 3, 2025. IRM requested that the expenses be reimbursed as an emergency situation in accordance with Commission Rule 1220-04-13-.07(7).³

On July 16, 2025, the Consumer Advocate Division of the Tennessee Attorney General's Office ("Consumer Advocate") filed a letter stating that it reviewed the Company's request and supporting documentation. Further, the Consumer Advocate stated that it did not intend to intervene in this proceeding.⁴

On July 21, 2025, the Administrative Judge issued a *Notice of Filing* finding that IRM requested reimbursement for repairs that had already been performed a month or more before the request was filed and that there was no impending emergency situation that demanded the expeditious Commission Chair letter ruling contemplated in Commission Rule 1220-04-13-.07(7). The Administrative Judge ordered IRM to have its counsel enter an appearance in this docket and to file Pre-Filed Testimony on or before August 1, 2025.⁵

On July 28, 2025, the Company submitted the Direct Testimony of Jeffrey W. Cox, Jr., in support of its *Petition*.⁶ Mr. Cox's testimony described the work performed at ISHA Enclave to repair a broken sewer collection line, which appeared to be the result of settling, as there was no indication of vehicle or other damage. Mr. Cox also described the non-routine failure of two pumps, which caused pump replacements at Flat Hollow and Towering Oaks.⁷ Mr. Cox stated that IRM seeks to withdraw \$5,468.71 from the escrow account to pay the costs of these repairs and replacements. Finally, Mr. Cox testified that the escrow account had a balance of \$96,257.97 as of July 23, 2025.⁸

³ *Id.*

⁴ *Letter to Chairman David F. Jones Re Consumer Advocate Will Not Seek Intervention in this Docket from Karen H. Stachowski, Consumer Advocate* (July 16, 2025).

⁵ *Notice of Filing*, p. 2 (July 21, 2025).

⁶ Jeffrey W. Cox, Jr. Pre-Filed Direct Testimony (July 28, 2025).

⁷ *Id.* at 2-3.

⁸ *Id.* at 6.

II. THE HEARING

A hearing in this matter was held before the Commissioners during the regularly scheduled Commission Conference on September 15, 2025, as noticed by the Commission on September 5, 2025.

Participating in the Hearing were:

Integrated Resource Management, Inc. – Charles B. Welch Jr., Esq., Phelps Dunbar LLP, 414 Union Street, Suite 1105, Nashville, Tennessee 37219, and Jeffrey W. Cox Jr., President, 3444 Saint Andrews Drive, White Pine, Tennessee 37890.

During the Hearing, Jeffrey W. Cox, President of IRM, presented testimony on behalf of the Company. Mr. Cox was subject to questions from the Commissioners and Commission Staff. Members of the public were given an opportunity to offer comments, but no comments were submitted.

III. STANDARD FOR COMMISSION APPROVAL

A public wastewater utility must obtain Commission approval for extraordinary expenditures from escrow funds in accordance with Commission Rule 1220-4-13-.07(7), which states:

Reserve/escrow accounts established by a public wastewater utility shall be limited to paying for or reimbursing the utility for extraordinary expenses of the utility or for necessary capital projects, unless otherwise permitted by the Commission. Extraordinary expenses are those resulting from events which are infrequent and unusual in nature, and unrelated to the utilities' routine service or business activities. The utility must first receive authorization from the Commission via approved petition or, in emergency situations, authorization in writing from the Chairman of the Commission upon written request by a representative of the utility to use such funds. The Commission may require public wastewater utility employees having signature authority over such account to obtain a fidelity bond. The public wastewater utility's tariff shall set forth the specific amount charged to customers to fund the reserve/escrow account.⁹

IV. FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

The Company requests reimbursement from escrow reserves to cover costs incurred for the repair of a sewer line break and to replace two failed pumps that are essential for sewage treatment.¹⁰ The

⁹ Tenn. Comp. R. & Regs. 1220-4-13-.07(7).

¹⁰ *Petition*, p. 1 (July 9, 2025).

detailed charges set forth in the invoices indicate a cost of \$2,220.90 to repair a sewer line break at ISHA Enclave, \$1,718.91 to replace a pump and repair a STEP system at Flat Hollow, and \$1,528.90 to replace a pump at Towering Oaks.¹¹

The panel found that the expenditures described in the *Petition* met the requirements of Commission Rule 1220-4-13-.07(7) and authorized IRM to withdraw funds from the escrow account for reimbursement of these expenditures. Thereafter, the panel voted unanimously to approve the *Petition* as filed and to allow IRM to withdraw \$5,468.71 from the Company's escrow account to recover extraordinary expenses and/or expenses for necessary capital projects incurred during the period of March 2025 to June 2025.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:

1. The *Integrated Resource Management, Inc. Request Pursuant to TPUC Rule 1220-04-13-.07(7) for the Emergency Release of Escrow Funds* is approved.
2. Any person aggrieved by the Commission's decision in this matter may file a Petition for Reconsideration with the Commission within 15 days from the date of this Order.
3. Any person aggrieved by the Commission's decision in this matter has the right to judicial review by filing a Petition for Review in the Tennessee Court of Appeals, Middle Section, within 60 days from the date of this Order.

FOR THE TENNESSEE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION:

**Vice Chairman John Hie,
Commissioner Herbert H. Hilliard,
Commissioner Robin L. Morrison,
Commissioner David Crowell, and
Commissioner Kenneth C. Hill concurred.**

None dissented.

ATTEST:



Earl R. Taylor, Executive Director

¹¹ *Id.*