

BEFORE THE TENNESSEE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

October 28, 2025

IN RE:

**APPLICATION OF LIMESTONE WATER UTILITY
OPERATING COMPANY, LLC TO EXPAND ITS
CERTIFICATE OF CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY
TO SERVE THE SUGAR LOAF ROAD SUBDIVISION
LOCATED IN SEVIER COUNTY, TENNESSEE**

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)
) **DOCKET NO.**
) **25-00053**
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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 Limestone Water Utility Operating Company, LLC (“Limestone”) on October 27, 2025. In its *Motion*, Limestone seeks permission for its witness, Todd Thomas, 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 November 3, 2025. Limestone requests that its witness be allowed to testify by phone because Mr. Thomas will be working outside of Tennessee on the date of the hearing and personal appearance would be burdensome.

Under the Tennessee Uniform Administrative Procedures Act, decisions involving telephone 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

¹ Tenn. Code Ann § 4-5-312(c) (2021).

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 Limestone'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 (5) minutes before the Commission Conference begins, turn his 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 prevents the use of the WebEx videoconferencing platform for the hearing, the hearing may need to be postponed.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:

1. Subject to the conditions set forth in this Order, Limestone Water Utility Operating Company, LLC's witness may appear and participate electronically in the hearing to be held on November 3, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. (CST).
2. To avoid disruption of other matters scheduled for the consideration of the

² In its *Motion*, Limestone states it will comply with certain conditions the Commission has previously imposed for allowing witnesses to participate electronically. However, the November 3rd 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.

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