

BEFORE THE TENNESSEE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

May 22, 2026

IN RE:)	
)	
PETITION OF TENNESSEE-AMERICAN WATER)	DOCKET NO.
COMPANY REGARDING THE 2026 PRODUCTION)	26-00002
COSTS AND OTHER PASS-THROUGHS RIDER)	

**ORDER GRANTING ELECTRONIC PARTICIPATION OF
CONSUMER ADVOCATE WITNESS IN HEARING**

This matter is before the Administrative Judge upon the *Consumer Advocate’s Motion for Leave for Witness to Appear By Remote Means at the Tennessee Public Utility Commission Conference of June 1, 2026* (“*Motion*”) filed by the Consumer Advocate Division of the Office of the Tennessee Attorney General (“*Consumer Advocate*”) on May 21, 2026. In its *Motion*, the Consumer Advocate seeks permission for its witness, William H. Novak, to participate electronically in the Hearing in this docket to be held during the regularly scheduled Commission Conference beginning at 10:00 a.m. (CDT) on June 1, 2026. The Consumer Advocate requests that its witness be allowed to participate in the Hearing by electronic means because Mr. Novak’s place of business is located in Houston, Texas, and remote appearance will be efficient and cost-effective due to there being no remaining disputed issues between the parties.

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 the Consumer Advocate's *Motion*, subject to compliance with the following conditions:

1. The Consumer Advocate's attorney shall appear personally at the Hearing to present and facilitate questioning of the Consumer Advocate's witness.

2. The Consumer Advocate'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 his camera off, and mute his 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, the Consumer Advocate Division of the Office of the Attorney General's witness may appear and participate electronically in the Hearing to be held on June 1, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. (CDT).

¹ Tenn. Code Ann. § 4-5-312(c) (2025).

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 minutes before the start time set for the Commission Conference. The Commission Conference will begin promptly.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'A. Conklin', is positioned above the typed name.

Aaron J. Conklin, Administrative Judge