BEFORE THE TENNESSEE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

September 25, 2026

IN RE:	)	
	)	
PETITION OF EDGE WASTEWATER UTILITIES, LLC, FOR A CERTIFICATE OF CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY TO INCLUDE THE BAKER FARMS SUBDIVISION IN MAURY COUNTY, TENNESSEE	)	**DOCKET NO. 26-00017**

ORDER APPROVING PETITION OF EDGE WASTEWATER UTILITIES, LLC, FOR A CERTIFICATE OF CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY TO INCLUDE THE BAKER FARMS SUBDIVISION IN MAURY COUNTY, TENNESSEE

This matter came before Chairman David F. Jones, Vice Chairman Clay R. Good, Commissioner Herbert H. Hilliard, Commissioner Kenneth C. Hill, and Commissioner John Hie of the Tennessee Public Utility Commission (the "Commission" or "TPUC"), the panel assigned to this docket, during a regularly scheduled Commission Conference held on August 17, 2026. The panel convened to consider the *Petition of Edge Wastewater Utilities, LLC, for a Certificate of Convenience and Necessity to Include the Baker Farms Subdivision in Maury County, Tennessee* ("*Petition*") filed by Edge Wastewater Utilities, LLC ("Edge" or "Company" or "Utility"), on March 2, 2026.[1] In its *Petition*, Edge requests the Commission grant it a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity ("CCN") to provide residential wastewater service to the Baker Farms Subdivision located in Maury County, Tennessee.

[1] *Petition* (March 2, 2026) (When initially filed, the *Petition* as well as subsequent pleadings needed additional signatures and verification pages. The Company refiled the *Petition* and subsequent pleadings with the additional signatures and verification pages on August 8, 2026. *See Edge Wastewater Utilities, LLC Submits its Refiled Petition, Data Responses, and Mathew Nicks Verification* (August 8, 2026)).

BACKGROUND AND PETITION

Edge Wastewater Utilities, LLC is a Tennessee limited liability company with its principal place of business at 410 New Salem Highway, Suite 100, in Murfreesboro, Tennessee. Edge Wastewater Utilities, LLC, is a subsidiary of Edge Wastewater, LLC, and both are owned by the same four (4) members: R. Matthew Nicks, James F. Reed III, Matthew Taylor, and Trevor Acree.[2]

Edge filed its *Petition* with the Commission on March 2, 2026, requesting the issuance of a CCN. No party sought intervention in this matter. The Company seeks the authority to provide wastewater utility services to a planned residential development known as Baker Farms Subdivision in Maury County, Tennessee. The development is set to be located at Carter's Creek Pike, Maury County, Tennessee, and will consist of 178 single-family homes to be built in one phase.[3]

In support of its *Petition*, Edge filed the biographies of its officers and key personnel, detailing their respective experience in utility management, design, and operations. The Company filed maps showing the location of the Baker Farms Subdivision, documents demonstrating the Company's corporate structure, and letters from the Maury County Government and the City of Spring Hill stating that they do not provide sanitary sewer service, and do not intend to provide sanitary sewer service to the Baker Farms Subdivision.[4] The Company also filed a letter from the

[2] *Id.* at 1, Exs. 4, 5 (March 2, 2026); *Edge Wastewater Utilities, LLC, Supplement to Petition for a Certificate of Convenience and Necessity to Include the Baker Farms Subdivision in Maury County, Tennessee, Filed March 2, 2026*, p. 1, Ex. 15 (April 22, 2026) (The *Petition* incorrectly states that "Edge Wastewater LLC" is the petitioner. In this supplemental filing, the Company corrects the error by specifically stating that Edge Wastewater Utilities, LLC, is the petitioner); *Edge Wastewater Utilities, LLC, Response to Commission Data Request Filed June 26, 2026*, p. 1 (July 7, 2026).

[3] *Petition*, pp. 1-2 (March 2, 2026).

[4] *Id.* at Exs. 2, 4, 5, 7, 12, 15 (March 2, 2026); *Edge Wastewater Utilities, LLC, Response to Commission Data Request Filed June 26. 2026*, Ex. 12 (July 7, 2026).

Maury County Board of Public Utilities stating that it had no objections to a private sewer system serving the Baker Farms Subdivision.[5]

Edge plans to discharge its operational and administrative duties through its parent company, Edge Wastewater, LLC. The Company stated that Edge Wastewater, LLC, will use a combination of employees and technology solutions to carry out those duties and intends to employ a secure web-based software solution that will provide centralized customer support, including account creation, move-ins, move-outs, service transfers, and customer billing. The system will also allow technicians to view and respond to service tickets. The Company further stated that it has retained a controller with extensive experience in wastewater utility accounting.[6]

Edge filed a copy of the Sanitary Sewer Service Agreement ("Sewer Agreement") executed on November 20, 2025, between Edge and Paul Varney Construction, LLC ("Developer").[7] In accordance with the Sewer Agreement, the Developer will furnish and construct the sewer infrastructure for the subdivision at its sole expense.[8] The Developer will provide "as-built" construction plans to Edge upon completion of the sewer infrastructure. The Sewer Agreement provides that the Developer will convey the land upon which the sewage treatment facility is located to Edge by quit-claim deed. In addition, the Developer will grant a non-exclusive sewer line easement lying five feet on either side of the sewer line.[9] Edge will own the system "once it is completed, inspected, and accepted by the Utility."[10]

The Company also filed the pre-filed testimony of Matthew Nicks, the President of Edge. Mr. Nicks testified that the Baker Farms Subdivision, located in Maury County, Tennessee, will

[5] *Petition*, Ex. 12 (March 2, 2026).
[6] *Edge Wastewater Utilities, LLC Response to Commission Data Request Filed June 26, 2026*, pp. 4-5 (July 7, 2026).
[7] *Petition*; Ex. 14 (March 2, 2026).
[8] *Id.* at Ex. 14 at 3.
[9] *Id.* at Ex. 14 at 4.
[10] *Id.* at 4.

have 178 single-family homes, built in one phase, and that the wastewater system is designed for 53,400 gpd of wastewater flow.[11] Mr. Nicks explained that the proposed wastewater system will consist of a watertight effluent pressure collection system, utilizing STEP/STEG tanks and a recirculating media filter treatment system. The treated effluent will be land applied for disposal. He stated that Edge will ensure the system is operated in compliance with Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation ("TDEC") regulations and will continually monitor the system via remote telemetry, enabling Edge to maintain service areas with better efficiency.[12]

Mr. Nicks further testified that the wastewater system will be constructed by the Developer and conveyed to the Utility as a contribution in aid of construction. He explained that once construction is complete and the system is accepted by the Utility, the Utility will be granted the deeds and easements for ownership of the system and the land upon which the system and drip areas are located.[13] Mr. Nicks attested that Edge will adhere to the Commission's orders and rules, including the affiliate transaction rule and the rules requiring completion of construction of the wastewater system within three years of approval of the CCN.[14]

The Company filed in this Docket a copy of its TDEC permit application for the treatment facility to serve Baker Farms Subdivision.[15] The application is in the name of Edge Wastewater, LLC, but upon the request of Edge, TDEC will change the name to Edge Wastewater Utilities, LLC.[16] Edge also filed a proposed tariff with its *Petition*.[17] In addition, the Company identified A&R Excavating, LLC, as the designated contractor to complete construction of the wastewater

[11] Matthew Nicks, Pre-filed Direct Testimony, p. 1 (March 2, 2026).
[12] *Id.* at 2.
[13] *Id.*
[14] *Id.* at 3.
[15] *Petition*, Ex. 19 (March 2, 2026).
[16] *Edge Wastewater Utilities, LLC Response to Commission Data Request Filed June 26, 2026*, pp. 2-3, Ex. 19 (July 7, 2026).
[17] *Petition*, Ex. 30 (March 2, 2026).

system for Baker Farms Subdivision. The Company provided a copy of A&R Excavating, LLC's contractor's license.[18]

STANDARD FOR COMMISSION APPROVAL

A public utility is not permitted to begin construction or operation of a new utility service without first obtaining a CCN from the Commission, as set forth in Tenn. Code Ann. § 65-4-201(a), which states:

> No public utility shall establish or begin the construction of, or operate any line, plant, or system, or route in or into a municipality or other territory already receiving a like service from another public utility, or establish service therein, without first having obtained from the commission, after written application and hearing, a certificate that the present or future public convenience and necessity require or will require such construction, establishment, and operation, and no person or corporation not at the time a public utility shall commence the construction of any plant, line, system, or route to be operated as a public utility, or the operation of which would constitute the same, or the owner or operator thereof, a public utility as defined by law, without having first obtained, in like manner, a similar certificate; provided, however, that this section shall not be construed to require any public utility to obtain a certificate for an extension in or about a municipality or territory where it shall theretofore have lawfully commenced operations, or for an extension into territory, whether within or without a municipality, contiguous to its route, plant, line, or system, and not theretofore receiving service of a like character from another public utility, or for substitute or additional facilities in or to territory already served by it.[19]

In addition, to obtain a CCN to provide wastewater service, TPUC Rule 1220-04-13-.17(1) states:

[18] *Edge Wastewater Utilities, LLC Response to Commission Data Request Filed June 26, 2026*, p. 2, Ex. 18 (July 7, 2026); *Edge Wastewater Utilities, LLC Response to Commission Second Data Request Dated July 15, 2026*, pp. 1-2 (July 20, 2026).
[19] Tenn. Code Ann. § 65-4-109 (2022).

> Any public wastewater utility requesting a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity ("CCN") in accordance with Tenn. Code Ann. §§ 65-4-201, *et seq.*, shall file an application that complies with Rule 1220-01-01-.03 and this rule. Each applicant shall demonstrate to the Commission that it possesses sufficient managerial, financial, and technical capabilities to provide the wastewater services for which it has applied. Each application shall demonstrate that there exists a public need for wastewater service and include the required financial security consistent with Tenn. Code Ann. § 65-4-201, and these rules.[20]

The rule further establishes minimum information filing requirements for applications seeking new or expanded CCNs.[21]

THE HEARING

A hearing in this matter was held before the panel of Commissioners on August 17, 2026, as was noticed by the Commission on August 7, 2026. Participating in the hearing were:

> Tennessee Wastewater Systems, Inc.– Tressa A. Mason, Esq., Attorney for Edge Wastewater Utilities, LLC, and Matthew Nicks, President, Edge Wastewater Utilities, LLC, 410 New Salem Highway, Suite 100, Murfreesboro, Tennessee 37219.

During the hearing, Matthew Nicks, President of Edge Wastewater Utilities, LLC, appeared on behalf of the Company. Mr. Nicks ratified and summarized his Pre-Filed Testimony and was subject to questioning before the panel. Members of the public were given an opportunity to offer comments, but no one sought recognition to do so.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

In its *Petition*, Edge asked the Commission for approval, in accordance with Tenn. Code Ann. § 65-4-201(a) and Commission Rule 1220-04-13-.17, of a CCN to provide service to Baker Farms Subdivision in Maury County, Tennessee. Based on review and consideration of the

[20] Tenn. Comp. R. & Regs. 1220-04-13-.17.
[21] *Id.*

pleadings, pre-filed testimony, and the entire administrative record, the panel made the following findings and conclusions:

The panel found that Edge has demonstrated that it possesses the requisite managerial, financial, and technical capabilities to provide wastewater services to Baker Farms Subdivision. Edge is a newly formed entity with no financial history to document. However, its affiliated organization provided information concerning its cash balance, and Edge provided projected operating expenses for the first two years of operations at Baker Farms Subdivision.[22] Further, the rates and charges to be assessed to customers submitted in its proposed tariff appear to be supported by the pro-forma financial projection for the development.[23] Therefore, the panel found that the rates and regulations proposed by the Company in its tariff are reasonable. In addition, Edge provided a financial security instrument in compliance with Commission Rules and agreed to obtain a performance bond from the Developer as required by Commission Rules.[24] Accordingly, the panel concluded that Edge has sufficient financial capability to be granted a CCN.

Edge also provided information regarding its designated operator of the Baker Farms Subdivision project, William Dranes. Mr. Dranes is duly certified and licensed to operate the proposed system.[25] TDEC has issued a draft permit to Edge for the operation of the proposed system.[26] The panel found that Edge possesses sufficient technical capability to be granted a CCN. The panel further found that the biographical information concerning officers and key personnel of the Company demonstrates the managerial skills and technical knowledge needed to

[22] *Edge Wastewater Utilities Response to TPUC Data Request*, Exs. 23a, 23b (July 7, 2026) (confidential).
[23] *Id.* at Ex. 31 (confidential).
[24] *Edge Wastewater Utilities, LLC Response to Commission Data Request Filed June 26, 2026*, Ex. 35 (July 7, 2026); *Petition*, p. 5 (March 2, 2026).
[25] *Petition*, Ex. 20 (March 2, 2026).
[26] *Id.* at Ex. 19; *Edge Wastewater Utilities, LLC Response to Commission Data Request Filed June 26, 2026*, pp. 2-3, Ex. 19 (July 7, 2026).

successfully operate a public utility. Therefore, the panel found that the Company has sufficient managerial capability to be granted a CCN.

The panel found that the Baker Farms Subdivision requires wastewater service to proceed with the proposed development and that the proposed development is not currently connected to a wastewater treatment facility operated by any other municipal utility, utility district, or other private wastewater utility. No other utility is seeking to serve the parcel. Therefore, the panel voted unanimously that there exists a public need to provide wastewater service to the Baker Farms Subdivision as required by Tenn. Code Ann. § 65-4-201(a) and Commission Rule 1220-04-13-.17(1).

Based on these findings, the panel voted unanimously to approve Edge's *Petition* contingent upon the Company filing the following documents in this docket, which cannot be finalized or are otherwise unavailable until after a CCN is granted: (1) the deed and/or easements for all the land and ownership rights to the wastewater system within 15 days of being issued and before the first customer is connected to the wastewater system as set forth in contracts submitted by Edge with the Commission; (2) final copy of the State Operating Permit issued by the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation within 15 days of issuance; (3) a copy of the as-built plans with signed certification by Edge confirming the wastewater system has been inspected and is approved to begin operation; (4) a copy of the signed plat, once the area of development is approved by the City and/or County government within 15 days of being issued and before the first customer is connected to the wastewater system; (5) a copy of the fully executed performance bond from the developer or builder of the wastewater system made payable to the Utility to ensure the construction of the wastewater system. The performance bond should be for an amount equal to or greater than the cost of the system as provided in contracts between the builder, developer,

and/or Utility; and (6) a listing of the final amount of contributed capital being transferred to the Utility, separated by asset classification.

The panel also directed Edge to file a report in this docket demonstrating its compliance with the filing requirements prior to providing wastewater service to the Baker Farms Subdivision. In the event the compliance report is not filed, the panel directed the Company to file a status report detailing the Company's progress towards providing wastewater service to Baker Farms Subdivision and outlining its status of compliance with the filing requirements of this Order, within six months from the date of this Order and every six months thereafter until the installation is complete.

Finally, the panel considered the Company's request to use an escrow account in conjunction with its monthly customer billing as demonstrated in the proposed tariff filed in this docket. The panel unanimously approved Edge's request to establish an escrow account and the collection of escrow funds. Edge shall maintain and administer the escrow funds in accordance with Commission Rule 1220-04-13-.18.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:

1. The *Petition of Edge Wastewater Utilities, LLC, for a Certificate of Convenience and Necessity to Include the Baker Farms Subdivision in Maury County, Tennessee*, filed on March 2, 2026, is approved contingent upon Edge Wastewater Utilities, LLC, filing the following in this docket:

    a. The deed and/or easements for all the land and ownership rights to the wastewater system within 15 days of issuance and before the first customer is connected to the wastewater system as set forth in contracts submitted by Edge Wastewater Utilities, LLC, with the Commission;

b. A copy of the final State Operating Permit issued by the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation within 15 days of issuance;

c. A copy of the as-built plans, including signed certification by Edge Wastewater Utilities, LLC, confirming that the entire wastewater system has been inspected and is approved for operation;

d. A copy of the signed plat, once the area of development is approved by the City and/or County government, within 15 days of issuance and before the first customer is connected to the wastewater system.

e. A copy of the fully executed performance bond from the developer or builder of the wastewater system made payable to Edge Wastewater Utilities, LLC to ensure the construction of the wastewater system. The performance bond should be for an amount equal to or greater than the cost of the system as provided in contracts between the builder, developer, and utility; and

f. A listing of the final amount of contributed capital being transferred to Edge Wastewater Utilities, LLC, separated by asset classification.

2. Edge Wastewater Utilities, LLC, is authorized to use an escrow account in conjunction with its monthly customer billing, as outlined in the tariff submitted in this docket. The escrow collections shall be subject to and administered in accordance with Commission Rule 1220-04-13-.18 pertaining to escrow accounts.

3. Edge Wastewater Utilities, LLC, shall file a report in this docket demonstrating its compliance with the aforementioned requirements prior to providing wastewater service to Baker Farms Subdivision. In the event the compliance report is not filed, Edge Wastewater Utilities, LLC, shall file within six months from the date of this Order and every six months thereafter until

the installation is complete, a status report detailing the Company's progress towards providing wastewater service to Baker Farms Subdivision and outlining its status of compliance with each of the aforementioned requirements.

4. 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.

5. 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:

Commission Panel Vote

The Commission panel has adopted the foregoing Order.
All members present and voting concurred.

Chairman David F. Jones
Vice Chairman Clay R. Good
Commissioner Robin L. Morrison
Commissioner Kenneth C. Hill
Commissioner John Hie

Order Issued and Attested By:



Earl R. Taylor, Executive Director