

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF
THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

ASHLEY HILL, ET AL

vs.

DOCKET NO. 2018-AD-36

PUNKIN WATER ASSOCIATION
WA-003-0558-00

IN RE: COMPLAINT OF MELANIE RUBE, ET AL, AGAINST PUNKIN
WATER ASSOCIATION FOR FAILURE TO PROVIDE
REASONABLY ADEQUATE SERVICE TO CUSTOMERS IN
LAFAYETTE COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI AND REQUEST FOR
HEARING PURSUANT TO MISS. CODE ANN. 77-3-5 ET. SEQ.

POST HEARING ORDER

THIS MATTER is before the Mississippi Public Service Commission (“Commission”) for hearing pursuant to Miss. Code Ann. § 77-3-40(6) and arises from the joint complaint filed with the Commission by approximately ninety-two (92) members of Punkin Water Association (“PWA”) relative to the adequacy of the water service PWA provides to its members. At the conclusion of said hearing, Chairman Brandon Presley issued a ruling from the bench, more fully articulated in this order.

PROCEDURAL BACKGROUND

The member complainants filed their joint complaint with the Commission on March 19, 2018. The Commission issued its notice to PWA on March 22, 2018. The full Commission referred this matter to its Chairman for hearing, report, and recommendation of an appropriate order, and any other action necessary pursuant to law, on April 10, 2018. On May 3, 2018, the Commission set this matter for hearing to take place on May 15, 2018, at the Lafayette County Chancery Courthouse located in Oxford, Mississippi, and duly noticed said hearing by publishing notice in the *Oxford*

Eagle. Numerous members of PWA attended the hearing along with four (4) members of the PWA board of directors.¹ Also present were local elected officials, representatives from the Mississippi Department of Health, and representatives from the Mississippi Rural Water Association.

DISCUSSION

Having considered the joint complaint, the facts as revealed in the testimony and evidence presented at the hearing, the laws of the State of Mississippi, the Rules and Regulations Governing Public Utility Service and the Public Utilities Rules of Practice and Procedure, the Commission hereby finds that the service rendered by PWA is not reasonably adequate. Therefore, the Commission hereby orders the following, to wit:

- 1) The PWA board of directors shall set a time, date, and location certain for the PWA monthly board meetings following the date of this order. The PWA shall file said schedule of monthly meetings with the Commission² by **May 22, 2018**, and also provide notice of said board meeting on each bill to each PWA member monthly for a period of six months following the date of this order.
- 2) The PWA board of directors shall provide a complete copy of the PWA by-laws to each member identified in Exhibit 15 to the May 15, 2018 hearing by **May 22, 2018**.

Moreover, the PWA shall provide a complete copy of the PWA by-laws to all new members at the time of their application for service, and to any additional members upon request.

¹ The PWA board of directors consists of five (5) positions. There is currently one (1) unfilled position on said board.

² All filings required by this order shall be filed in Docket No. 2018-AD-36 by forwarding copies to the Commission's Executive Secretary.

- 3) The PWA board of directors shall report to the Commission, beginning on **May 22, 2018**, and continuing monthly thereafter until such interconnection is complete, the progress towards entering into an agreement with the City of Oxford, Mississippi to provide water to PWA.³ Once construction is commenced, PWA shall report the same to the Commission and shall include construction updates in said monthly reports until interconnection is complete.
- 4) Working in conjunction with the Mississippi Rural Water Association, the PWA shall identify immediate and intermediate steps to resolve the issues raised by the pending joint complaint regarding the adequacy of the water service it renders to its members and file the same with the Commission by **May 22, 2018**.
- 5) Working in conjunction with the Mississippi Department of Health, the PWA shall identify immediate and intermediate steps to resolve the issues raised by the pending joint complaint regarding the adequacy of the water service it renders to its members and file the same with the Commission by **May 29, 2018**.
- 6) The PWA shall notify all members of the status of PWA's website development including, but not limited to the website address and its anticipated completion date by **May 22, 2018**.

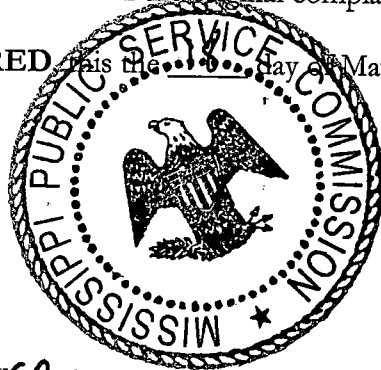
IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that PWA shall comply with the above listed reporting requirements and conditions by the dates described above. If PWA fails to comply with this order and the commission finds that cancellation of its certificate would be in the best interest of the

³ The updates required in this subpart in no way relieves PWA from obtaining any certificates of public convenience and necessity that are required for such a project.

consuming public, its certificate for the area affected may be revoked and cancelled by the Commission.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Executive Secretary shall provide a copy of this order to each customer listed in the original complaint filed in this Docket.

SO ORDERED this the 16th day of May, 2018.



MISSISSIPPI PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Brandon Presley

Brandon Presley, Chairman

ATTEST: True Copy

Katherine Collier

Katherine Collier

Executive Secretary

Effective this the 16th day of May, 2018.