

# THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF  
CARROLL TOWNSHIP TREATMENT  
SERVICES, INC. FOR AN INCREASE IN  
RATES AND CHARGES.

CASE No. 20-1585-ST-AIR

## ENTRY

Entered in the Journal on November 18, 2020

### I. SUMMARY

{¶ 1} The Commission approves Carroll Township Treatment Services, Inc.'s test year, date certain, and request for waivers in its application to increase rates for sewage disposal service.

### II. DISCUSSION

{¶ 2} Carroll Township Treatment Services, Inc. (Applicant or Company) is a sewage disposal system company as defined by R.C. 4905.03(M) and a public utility as defined by R.C. 4905.02, and as such, is subject to the jurisdiction of this Commission pursuant to R.C. 4905.04, 4905.05, and 4905.06.

{¶ 3} An application for an increase in rates is governed by, and must meet, the requirements of R.C. 4909.17, 4909.18, 4909.19, and 4909.42.

{¶ 4} R.C. 4909.15(C)(1) provides that, unless otherwise ordered by the Commission, the test period for determining the revenues and expenses of a utility shall be any twelve-month period beginning six months prior to the date the application is filed and ending six months subsequent to that date, and that in no event shall the test period end more than nine months subsequent to the date the application is filed. The section also requires that the date certain be no later than the date of filing.

{¶ 5} In order for Staff to evaluate an application for an increase in rates, applicants must provide specific standard information, as required by Ohio Adm.Code 4901-7-01,

Appendix A. These standard filing requirements (SFR) contain the minimum information public utilities are required to submit with their applications.

{¶ 6} On October 12, 2020, Applicant filed an abbreviated application to increase its rates for sewage disposal service, pursuant to R.C. 4909.18.

{¶ 7} In the application, Applicant indicates it is a sewage disposal system company providing utility service to 400 to 5,000 customers in the area of Carroll Township, Ottawa County, Ohio. Applicant requests that the Commission waive the filing requirements contained within R.C. 4909.18(A) through (E). Lastly, Applicant requests that the Commission establish the test period as September 1, 2019, to August 31, 2020, and the date certain as August 31, 2020, for the purposes of examining the reasonableness of current rates and the determination of rate base.

{¶ 8} On October 26, 2020, Staff filed a review and recommendation (Staff report). In the Staff report, Staff states that a sewage disposal system utility with fewer than 7,500 customers may choose to either make an abbreviated filing, under Chapter IV of the SFR, or apply for rate adjustments by complying with the SFR for small utilities, under Chapter III of the SFR. Staff states that Applicant chose to make an abbreviated filing.

{¶ 9} Staff indicates that it reviewed the October 12, 2020 application. According to Staff, Applicant's current rates include a sewage disposal rate approved in *In re Carroll Township Treatment Services, LLC*, Case No. 18-889-ST-AIR, Opinion and Order (Apr. 8, 2020). Staff states that Applicant proposes to increase rates from the Company's current sewer charge of \$1.3019 per hundred gallons to the Company's proposed sewer charge of \$2.31728 per hundred gallons.

{¶ 10} Staff states that the procedures in an abbreviated filing assume that an applicant has maintained adequate financial records pursuant to the Uniform Systems of Accounts prescribed by the Commission and requires that the applicant have on file with the Commission fully completed annual reports for the most recent calendar year and at

least two prior years. Staff recognizes that Applicant filed its 2017, 2018, and 2019 annual reports with the Commission, but Staff has noted discrepancies within them. During the course of its review in this case, Staff proposes to work with Applicant to address these discrepancies. Staff concludes that Applicant's application substantively conforms to the SFR, and Staff recommends that the Commission accept the application for filing as of October 12, 2020.

{¶ 11} Upon review of the October 12, 2020 application and the Staff report, the Commission finds that Applicant's application meets the SFR. Further, the Commission finds that Applicant's request to establish the test period as September 1, 2019, to August 31, 2020, and the date certain as August 31, 2020, is reasonable and should be granted. As such, the application is accepted as of the filing date of October 12, 2020.

{¶ 12} The Applicant has requested waivers of R.C. 4909.18(A) through (E). Considering the size of the Applicant, the Commission finds that the request is reasonable and should be granted.

{¶ 13} R.C. 4909.19 requires publication of the substance of the application once a week for two consecutive weeks in a newspaper published and in general circulation throughout the territory affected by the matters referred to in the application and in which the Applicant operates. The Commission specifies that Applicant should begin publication of the following form of notice, pursuant to R.C. 4909.19, within thirty days of the date of this Entry and such notice shall not appear in the legal notices section of the newspaper.

NOTICE TO CUSTOMERS  
CARROLL TOWNSHIP TREATMENT SERVICES, INC.  
PUCO CASE NO. 20-1585-ST-AIR

Pursuant to R.C. 4909.19, Carroll Township Treatment Services, Inc. (Applicant) hereby gives notice that, on October 12, 2020, it filed an application with the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (Commission) in Case No. 20-1585-ST-AIR requesting authority to increase the rates it charges.

Any interested party seeking detailed information with respect to all affected rates, charges, regulations, and practices may inspect a copy of the application, including supporting schedules and present and proposed rate sheets, by any of the following methods: by visiting the Commission's web site at [puco.ohio.gov](http://puco.ohio.gov), selecting "What is DIS?", then selecting "Visit DIS", selecting "Launch Docketing Information System (DIS)", then inputting 20-1585 in the case lookup box and selecting the date the application was filed; or by contacting the Commission's call center at 1-800-686-PUCO (7826) or the Commission's Docketing Division at [docketing@puco.ohio.gov](mailto:docketing@puco.ohio.gov).

The current base rates were approved in 2020 in Case No. 18-889-ST-AIR. Applicant alleges that, based on current expense levels, the existing rates and charges do not provide it with reasonable compensation and return for the utility service it renders. Based on this allegation, Applicant requests that the Commission grant the Applicant authorization to charge the proposed rates and charges set forth in the rate chart below.

Any person, firm, corporation, association, or other entity may file, pursuant to R.C. 4909.19, an objection to such increase which may allege that such application contains proposals that are unjust and discriminatory or unreasonable. Recommendations which differ from the application may be made by the Staff of the Commission or by intervening parties and may be adopted by the Commission.

Rate Chart<sup>[DJ1]</sup>

Current Rates and Charges for Sewer Service

Domestic and non domestic service

Sewer charge per hundred gallons:      \$1.3019

Proposed Rates and Charges for Sewer Service

Domestic and non-domestic

Sewer Charge per hundred gallons:      \$2.31728

**III. ORDER**

{¶ 14} It is, therefore,

{¶ 15} ORDERED, That Applicant's application be accepted for filing as of October 12, 2020. It is, further,

{¶ 16} ORDERED, That the request for waivers made by the Applicant be granted as set forth in Paragraph 12. It is, further,

{¶ 17} ORDERED, That Applicant shall begin publication of the notice to customers presented in Paragraph 13 above, pursuant to R.C. 4909.19, within thirty days of the date of this Entry. It is, further,

{¶ 18} ORDERED, That a copy of this Entry be served upon all parties of record.

COMMISSIONERS:

*Approving:*

M. Beth Trombold  
Lawrence K. Friedeman  
Daniel R. Conway  
Dennis P. Deters

JMD/kck

**This foregoing document was electronically filed with the Public Utilities**

**Commission of Ohio Docketing Information System on**

**11/18/2020 2:29:31 PM**

**in**

**Case No(s). 20-1585-ST-AIR**

Summary: Entry approving Carroll Township Treatment Services, Inc.'s test year, date certain, and request for waivers in its application to increase rates for sewage disposal service. electronically filed by Kelli C. King on behalf of The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio