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# JUN 18 2025

MISS. PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

MARY-KATHERINE BARNES

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June 18, 2025

Katherine Collier, Esq.
Executive Secretary
Mississippi Public Service Commission
501 North West Street, Suite 201A
Jackson, MS 39201
(executive.secretary@psc.ms.gov)

Re:

Great River Utility Operating Company, LLC 2025 FRP Annual Report for Water

Operations in its Certificated Areas of Mississippi

Docket No.: 2025-UN-34

Dear Katherine,

On behalf of Great River Utility Operating Company, LLC ("Great River") please find enclosed for filing with the Commission in the above referenced docket Great River's Compliance Filing.

Pursuant to the Commissioner's Order of March 12, 2020, this filing is only being made electronically. Physical copies shall be made only upon further order of the Commission.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely.

Mary-Katherine Barnes

MB:hr

CC:

Kyle Jones, Esq. (kyle.jones@psc.ms.gov)

Jim Beckett, Esq. (jim.beckett@mpus.ms.gov)

Jeff Lee, Esq. (jeff.lee@mpus.ms.gov)

Emily Kruger, Esq. (emily.kruger@mpus.ms.gov)

Mr. Ron Brewer (ron.brewer@mpus.ms.gov)

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Ricky J. Cox, Esq. (rcox@balch.com)

Leo Manuel, Esq. (Imanuel@balch.com)

BEFORE THE MISSISSIPPI PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION MISS. PUBLIC SERVICE

GREAT RIVER UTILITY OPERATING COMPANY, LLC WC-123-2514-00

**DOCKET NO. 2025-UN-34** 

IN RE:

GREAT RIVER UTILITY OPERATING COMPANY, LLC 2025 FRP ANNUAL REPORT FOR WATER OPERATIONS IN ITS CERTIFICATED AREAS OF MISSISSIPPI

# **COMPLIANCE FILING**

COMES NOW, Great River Utility Operating Company, LLC ("Great River" or the "Company") and pursuant to RP 9.113(6) of the Commission's Public Utilities Rules of Practice and Procedure and the Mississippi Public Service Commission's ("Commission") order in the above referenced docket and would show unto this Commission the following:

- 1. On or about June 17, 2025, the Commission issued its Final Order in this docket approving and adopting without modification Proposal No. 4 of the 2025 FRP Annual Filing, as supplemented.
- 2. Pursuant to paragraph 26 of the Final Order, attached as Exhibit "A" is Great River's compliance tariff, which according to the Final Order are deemed approved as just and reasonable, and shall, unless otherwise instructed by the Commission, be implemented beginning with the first billing period in July 2025 for bills to be sent to customers in August 2025.

WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, Great River Utility Operating Company, LLC respectfully requests that this compliance filing be received and that upon review and recommendation by the Staff that this compliance filing and the compliance tariff (Exhibit "A") conform with the Final Order, the Executive Secretary, by and on behalf of the Commission, issue an order approving this compliance filing and the compliance tariff (Exhibit "A") as submitted.

Respectfully submitted, this 18th day of June, 2025.

GREAT RIVER UTILITY OPERATING COMPANY, LLC

BY: BALCH & BINGHAM LLP

Of Councel

RICKY J. COX
Mississippi Bar No. 9606
LEO E. MANUEL
Mississippi Bar No. 101985
MARY-KATHERINE BARNES
Mississippi Bar No. 105906
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# STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

# **COUNTY OF HARRISON**

PERSONALLY appeared before me, the undersigned authority in and for the said County and State, within my jurisdiction, the within named MARY-KATHERINE BARNES, who after being duly sworn on oath acknowledged that she is Attorney for GREAT RIVER UTILITY OPERATING COMPANY, LLC and that for and on behalf of the said GREAT RIVER UTILITY OPERATING COMPANY, LLC, and as its act and deed, she signed and delivered the above and foregoing instrument of writing for the purposes mentioned on the day and year therein mentioned, after first having been duly authorized by said GREAT RIVER UTILITY OPERATING COMPANY, LLC, so to do.

MARY-KATHERINE BARNES

SWORN TO AND SUBSCRIBED BEFORE ME, this the 18th day of June, 2025.

Mexima duta

My Commission Expires:

2/1/2028



# CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

- I, MARY-KATHERINE BARNES, counsel for Great River Utility Operating Company, LLC in the above and foregoing filing with the Mississippi Public Service Commission on even date herewith, do hereby certify that in compliance with RP 6 of the Mississippi Public Service Commission Public Utilities Rules of Practice and Procedure, as modified and suspended by that certain Order Temporarily Suspending Rules and Encouraging Use of the Commission Electronic Filing System issued on March 12, 2020:
- (1) An electronic copy of the filing has been filed with the Commission via e-mail to the following address:

# efile.psc@psc.state.ms.us

(2) An electronic copy of the filing was served via e-mail to the following persons:

Katherine Collier, Esq., Executive Secretary Mississippi Public Service Commission 501 North West Street, Suite 201A Jackson, MS 39201 <a href="mailto:executive.secretary@psc.ms.gov">executive.secretary@psc.ms.gov</a>

Jim Beckett, Esq., Executive Director Mississippi Public Utilities Staff 501 North West Street, Suite 901C Jackson, MS 39201 jim.beckett@mpus.ms.gov Kyle Jones, Esq.
Mississippi Public Service Commission
501 North West Street, Suite 201A
Jackson, MS 39201
kyle.jones@psc.ms.gov

Emily Kruger, Esq.
Mississippi Public Utilities Staff
501 North West Street, Suite 901C
Jackson, MS 39201
emily.kruger@mpus.ms.gov

(3) Great River has complied with or requested a waiver of all other requirements of the Commission's Rules.

So certified this the lotted day of June, 2025.

MARY-KATHERINE BARNES

# **TARIFF**

OF

# Great River Utility Operating Company, LLC

# CONSISTING OF SCHEDULE OF MONTHLY RATES, SERVICE CHARGES, SERVICES RULES AND REGULATIONS, SERVICE EXTENSION POLICY, AND FORMULA RATE PLAN

# FOR WATER SERVICE

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CERTIFICATED SERVICE AREA OF GREAT RIVER UTILITY OPERATING COMPANY, LLC

NO MODIFICATION OF THESE SCHEDULES SHALL BE MADE EXCEPT FOR THE PURPOSE OF CANCELING OR SUPERSEDING PREVIOUSLY ISSUED SCHEDULES

Issued By: Josiah Cox President

(Name) (Title)

134 Rue Magnolia, Suite C Biloxi, Mississippi 39530

(Street or Box Number) (City) (State)

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION



Mississippi Public Service Commission		
Utility Service - Water		
	Page	
	1 of 2	

# **PREFACE**

The following Tariff governing water service is published as a convenient source of answers to basic questions asked by Customers or Applicant of Great River Utility Operating Company, LLC ("Great River"). This Tariff is established to provide uniform standards and policies for the rendering of water service and to the extent applicable by their provisions, to prescribe terms and conditions for all water service rendered or to be rendered by Great River. To the extent there is a conflict between the terms of this Tariff (or any contract with a Customer entered pursuant to this Tariff) and the Commission's Service Rules, Procedural Rules or Orders, the terms of the Commission's Service Rules, Procedural Rules and Orders shall control. This Tariff is on file with the Mississippi Public Service Commission. Failure of Great River to insist on any one or more occasions upon the strict compliance with this Tariff governing water utility service shall not constitute a permanent waiver or modification of the Tariff, but Great River at any time may insist upon strict compliance herewith regardless of any previous waivers or Customer's reliance thereon.

Copies of this Tariff are available at the Mississippi Public Service Commission in Jackson, Mississippi and at the following website:

https://www.centralstateswaterresources.com/great-river/great-river-community-tariff-information/

as well as at the offices of Great River:

Main Administrative Office: 134 Rue Magnolia, Suite C Biloxi, MS 39530

Customers may contact Great River 24 hours per day / 7 days a week for any issues regarding billing, new service, reconnection of existing service, disconnection of existing service, maintenance issues and emergency issues at 855-801-8440 or by sending an email to <a href="maintenance">support@greatriveruoc.com</a>. Customers may also contact Great River via U.S. Mail at Great River Utility Operating Company, 134 Rue Magnolia, Suite C, Biloxi, MS 39530.



Mississippi Public Service Com	Mississippi Public Service Commission		
Utility Service - Wat	ter		
	Page		
	2 of 2		

# INDEX OF SCHEDULES

Schedule No.	Rate Symbol	Schedule Type	Class of Service	Service Type
1	LOS-3	Water Service – List of Systems	All	Water
2	WSG-3	Water Service - General	All	Water
3	WSCF-1	Water Service Charges and Fees	All	Water
4	WSR-2	Water Service Rules and Regulations	All	Water
5	WSEP-2	Water Service Extension Policy	All	Water
6	FRP-2	Formula Rate Plan	All	Water



Mississippi Public S	Service Commission	Rate Sch	edule No. 1
	vice – List of tems	L	OS-3
Effective Date	Date of Version Supe	rseded	Page
June 17, 2025	July 15, 2024	1	1 of 1

# **LIST OF SYSTEMS**

System	PSC District	County
Bellegrass (Canebrake)	#2	Lamar
Black Creek	#2	Forrest
Buena Vista	#3	DeSoto
Charlotte Dev CO- Knollwood S/D	#2	Harrison
Chickasaw Subdivision	#3	Panola
Clermont Harbor	#2	Hancock
Deerwood Utility	#2	Harrison
Enid Lakes Estates	#3	Yalobusha
Enid Shores Subdivision	#3	Panola
Gulf Park Estates	#2	Jackson
Hide-a-Way Hills Subdivision	#3	Panola
Lakewood Environmental (Lake Village Estates, Northridge & Windance)	#2	Harrison
Oakland Water Works	#2	Adams
Ocean Beach	#2	Jackson
Palmer Creek Utility	#2	Harrison
Palmetto Pointe (Houston Estates Utility)	#2	Jackson
Parks Utilities	#1	Noxubee
Pass Christian Isles	#2	Harrison
Point Aux Chene	#2	Jackson
Robinwood Forest	#2	Harrison
Rouses Marina	#2	Jackson
The Highlands	#3	Tate
The Woods	#2	Harrison
Twelve Oaks Estates	#3	Lafayette
Weilsgate	#3	Lafayette
White Cypress Lakes	#2	Hancock
Woolmarket Village Estates	#2	Harrison



Mississippi Public	Service Commission F	Rate Sch	edule No. 2	
Water Service - General WSG-3				
Effective Date	Date of Version Superseded		Page	
June 17, 2025	July 15, 2024		1 of 2	

# **APPLICABILITY**

This rate schedule applies to all customer systems identified in the List of Systems contained in Great River's Water Tariff.

#### AVAILABILITY

Water service is available under this rate schedule on a uniform basis within Great River's certificated service area subject to the Service Charges, Service Rules and Regulations, and the Service Extension Policy. Service is for the exclusive use of the customer and shall not be resold or shared with others.

# MONTHLY RATE FOR SERVICE

The monthly rates below reflect differences in costs inherent in providing Residential Service and Non-Residential Service to customers across Mississippi.

#### RESIDENTIAL SERVICE

Monthly flat rate per Service Connection: \$46.69

#### NON-RESIDENTIAL SERVICE

# Monthly metered rates by Meter size:

5/8" and 3/4":	\$46.69 for the first 2,000 gallons consumed \$3.56 for each additional 1,000 gallons consumed
1":	\$58.36 for the first 2,000 gallons consumed \$3.56 for each additional 1,000 gallons consumed
1.5":	\$233.45 for the first 2,000 gallons consumed \$3.56 for each additional 1,000 gallons consumed
2":	\$373.52 for the first 2,000 gallons consumed \$3.56 for each additional 1,000 gallons consumed
3"	\$700.35 for the first 2,000 gallons consumed \$3.56 for each additional 1,000 gallons consumed
4"	\$1,167.25 for the first 2,000 gallons consumed \$3.56 for each additional 1,000 gallons consumed
6"	\$1,167.25 for the first 2,000 gallons consumed \$3.56 for each additional 1,000 gallons consumed



lississippi Public	Service Commission R	ate Sch	edule No. 2
Water Service - General WSG-3			
Effective Date	Date of Version Supers	seded	Page
June 17, 2025	July 15, 2024	-	2 of 2

# ADDITIONAL RATE ADJUSTMENTS

The monthly rates for water service are subject to adjustment annually through Great River's Commission-approved Formula Rate Plan, Rider FRP. Great River reserves the right to apply to this rate any applicable proportionate part of any tax or assessment imposed or levied by any governmental authority in addition to the base monthly charges set forth above.



Mississippi Public Service Commission Rate Schedule No. 3				
Water Service Charges and Fees   WSCF-1				
Effective Date	Date of Version Superseded	Page		
May 1, 2023	Original	1 of 2		

#### SCHEDULE OF SERVICE CHARGES AND FEES

- 1. Connection (tap) Fee: A Service Connection fee of \$650.00 will be required of each Customer and includes the connection to the Company's water main as well as the meter. Payment of this fee shall be in advance of any installation or construction work by the utility and will include the cost of making actual connection to the system. This fee will be collected only once for a given service location. Notwithstanding the foregoing, a separate connection fee shall be required if a customer requires an additional connection for the purposes of adding a secondary metered service, such as for a swimming pool or irrigation system. Company will book all or a portion of each Connection Fee received as a contribution in aid of construction when consistent with applicable accounting guidance.
- 2. <u>Disconnection Fee</u>: If it becomes necessary for Company personnel to be dispatched to any Customer's home or place of business for the purpose of disconnecting service for a delinquency or any violation of the Service Rules and Regulations, such Customer shall be charged a disconnect fee of \$35.00. A fee of \$25.00 shall apply in the event the operator is dispatched for the disconnection and upon arrival the past due bill is paid.
- 3. Reconnection Fee: A fee for reconnection of water service of \$35.00 will be applicable in the event the water has been disconnected. When ownership or tenancy changes at the Unit, the new Applicant for service will be required to pay the reconnection fee which is a non-refundable charge.
- 4. <u>Returned Check Charge</u>: Any check received in payment of a bill which is returned by the bank will be subject to a \$40.00 additional collection fee.
- 5. <u>Late Payment Charge</u>: All bills are due and payable 21 days from the billing date following the service. If the bill is not paid by such due date, an \$8.00 charge will be added to the amount due.
- 6. <u>Itemized Utility Bill</u>: Customers that request the Company to generate a 12-month, itemized bill history will be charged \$10.00.
- 7. Meter Reread: Customers that request the Company to reread the Meter shall be charged \$10.00.
- 8. Replace Damaged / Stolen Meter: Customers that require a Meter replacement due to a stolen Meter or a replacement of a damaged Meter due to tampering shall be charged \$450.00.
- 9. Customers shall not be responsible for meters that were damaged prior to that Customer taking service or meters that were damaged by a third party.
- 10. <u>Tampering with Company Property</u>: Customers that tamper with their Meter, or any other Company property, shall be charged \$100.00 for the first offense; subsequent offenses shall be charged \$300.00.



Mississippi Public Service Commission Rate Schedule No. 3				
Water Service Charges and Fees WSCF-1				
Effective Date	Date of Version Superseded	Page		
May 1, 2023	Original	2 of 2		

11. <u>Unauthorized Connection Charge</u>: In the event the Company finds that a Customer has an unauthorized Service Water connection (meaning a connection has been made to the Company's water system without the Company's knowledge or permission and/or for which a Connection Fee or Inspection Fee, as applicable, has not been paid to the Company), the Customer will be required to pay the original Connection Fee or Inspection Fee, as applicable, and an additional \$100.00 for the unauthorized connection.



Mississippi Public Service Commission Rate Schedule No. 4				
Water Service Rules and Regulations WSR-2				
Effective Date	Date of Version Superseded	Page		
June 17, 2025	May 1, 2023	1 of 16		

# SERVICE RULES AND REGULATIONS

# 1. **DEFINITIONS**:

An "Applicant" is a person, firm, corporation, association, governmental body, or other entity which has applied for service; two of more Applicants may make one application for a Main extension.

The "Commission" means the Mississippi Public Service Commission.

The "Company" means Great River Utility Operating Company.

The "Curb Stop" is a valve on the Service Connection, located at or near the Customer's property line, and used to shut off water service to the premises. The Curb Stop is owned and maintained by the Company.

A "Customer" means a person, firm, corporation, association, municipality, the State of Mississippi, the United States, any federal or state department, subdivision or agency, and any institution or establishment whatsoever taking service from the Company.

"Discontinuance of Service" is the intentional cessation of service by the Company not requested by the Customer.

"Industrial Service" means service to manufacturing and processing establishments, including production facilities, agricultural products processing facilities, assembly plants, refineries, and similar establishments. At the Company's discretion, service may be provided to this class through one or more Meters.

The "Main" is a pipeline which is owned and maintained by the Company, located on public property or private easements, and used to transport water throughout the Company's service area.

The "Meter" is a device, owned by the Company, used to measure and record the quantity of water that flows through the service line, and is installed in the outdoor Meter Setting, or inside the Customer's building where the Water Service Line enters through a foundation wall. Even in an indoor setting, the meter is still the property of the Company.

The "Meter Setting" is a place either in the Service Connection or building plumbing for a water Meter to be installed. An outdoor Meter Setting is located at or near the property line, and includes the Meter box, Meter yoke, lid, and appurtenances, all of which shall be owned and maintained by the Company. Indoor Meter Settings are located inside the Customer's premises where the Water Service Line enters the foundation wall either installed directly in the piping or in a Meter yoke.

A "Month" means an interval of approximately thirty (30) calendar days between successive Meter read dates, except when the calendar month is specified.



Mississippi Public	Service Commission Rate	e Sch	edule No. 4
Water Service Rules and Regulations		V	VSR-2
Effective Date	Date of Version Superseded		Page
June 17, 2025	May 1, 2023		2 of 16

"Non-Residential Service" means any service that is not Residential Service as defined herein, including but not limited to, restaurants, hospitals, schools, day care centers, office buildings, nursing homes, clubs, churches, shopping centers, and public facilities. At the Company's discretion, service may be provided to this class through one or more Meters. Non-Residential Service shall include service to any multi-tenant residential complex wherein each Unit is not separately metered.

"Residential Service" means one Customer in a single-family dwelling on one premise for residential purposes only. Residential purposes may include rental to roomers of not more than four rooms in such dwelling and serving meals to not more than eight boarders. Residential Service may, at Company's discretion, include service to separately metered Units within a multi-tenant residential complex.

A "Returned Check" is a check that is returned to the Company from any bank unpaid for any reason.

The "Service Connection" is the pipeline connecting the Main to the Customer's Water Service Line and includes the Curb Stop, or outdoor Meter Setting and all necessary appurtenances located at or near the property line. This Service Connection shall be owned and maintained by the Company. If the property line is in a street, and if the Curb Stop or Meter Setting is not located near the edge of the street abutting the Customer's property, the said Service Connection shall be deemed to end at the edge of the street abutting the Customer's property.

A "Subdivision" is any land in the state of Mississippi which is divided or proposed to be divided into two or more lots or other divisions of land, whether contiguous or not, or uniform in size or not, for the purpose of sale or lease, and includes resubdivision thereof.

A "Termination of Service" is cessation of service requested by the Customer.

"Turn Off" is the act of turning water service off by physically turning a valve such that water is unavailable to a Customer's premises. The charge for such service, for any of the reasons specified in Section 8(A), shall result in a Disconnection Fee.

"Turn On" is the act of turning water service on by physically turning a valve to allow water to be available to a Customer's premises. The charge for such service, following the disconnection pursuant to Section 8(A), shall result in a Reconnection Fee.

The word "Unit" shall be used herein to define the premises or property of a single water consumer, whether or not that consumer is the Customer. It shall pertain to any building whether multi-tenant or single occupancy, residential or non-residential, or owned or leased. Each mobile home in a mobile home park and each rental Unit of a multi-tenant rental property shall be considered as separate units for each single family or firm occupying same as a residence or place of business.



Mississippi Public Service Commission Rate Schedule No. 4			
}	Water Service Rules and Regulations		SR-2
Effective Date	Date of Version Superseded		Page
June 17, 2025	May 1, 2023		3 of 16

The "Water Service Line" is a pipe with appurtenances installed, owned, maintained, repaired, and replaced by the Customer, at Customer's sole expense, used to conduct water to the Customer's Unit from the property line, Curb Stop or outdoor Meter Setting, including the connection to the Curb Stop or Meter Setting. If the property line is in a street, then the Water Service Line shall be deemed to begin at the edge of the street abutting the Customer's property.

# 2. GENERAL RULES & REGULATIONS

- A. The Company's Rules and Regulations governing public utility service are set forth in these numbered sheets. The rates applicable to appropriate water service or service in particular service areas are set forth in rate schedules and constitute a part of these Rules and Regulations.
- B. The Company reserves the right, subject to approval of the Commission, to prescribe additional Rates, Rules, or Regulations or to alter existing Rates, Rules or Regulations as it may from time to time deem necessary and proper.
- C. After the effective date of these Rules and Regulations, all new facilities, construction contracts, and written agreements shall conform to these Rules and Regulations, and in accordance with the statutes of the State of Mississippi and the Rules and Regulations of the Commission. Pre-existing facilities that do not comply with applicable rules and regulations may remain, provided that their existence does not constitute a service problem or improper use, and reconstruction is not practical.

# 3. COMPANY EMPLOYEES AND CUSTOMER REGULATIONS

- A. Employees or agents of the Company are expressly forbidden to demand or accept in person any compensation for any services rendered to its Customers, except as provided in the Company's Service Rules and Regulations.
- B. No employees or agents of the Company shall have the right or authority to bind the Company by any promise, agreement, or representation except as permitted in the terms, conditions and rates of these Service Rules and Regulations.

#### 4. APPLICATION FOR SERVICE

A. Service rendered by Company shall be subject to the provisions of this Tariff and the lawfully applicable rate schedules on file with the Commission, and the supply and taking of such service shall, for the purposes of this Tariff, constitute an Application for Service if no written agreement for service or application for service has been executed. Applicants for water service may be required to make such application in writing via the Company's website <a href="www.centralstateswaterresources.com/great-river/">www.centralstateswaterresources.com/great-river/</a> (or through other means acceptable to the Company in its sole discretion) on forms supplied by the Company and

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Mississippi Public	Service Commission Rate S	Schedule No. 4
	vice Rules and ulations	WSR-2
Effective Date	Date of Version Superseded	Page
June 17, 2025	May 1, 2023	4 of 16

shall state fully and truthfully the uses to which the water is to be supplied. When such form is signed by the Customer and accepted in writing by Company, it becomes binding and is termed an agreement for service. Should such agreement be lost or destroyed, the form shall be presumed conclusively to be standard. If an application for service is not signed by Customer, the rendering of service by Company and the accepting of such service by Customer shall impose the same obligation on each as if it had been executed.

- B. If service is requested at a point not already served by a Main of adequate capacity or the service requires the addition of additional capacity including wells or storage capacity, a Main of adequate size shall be extended, or additional production capacity added, as may be necessary in accordance with the Company's Service Extension Policy. When, in order to provide the service requested a Main extension or other construction or equipment expense is required, the Company may require a written contract. Said contract may include, but not be limited to, the obligations upon the Company and the Applicant, and shall specify a reasonable period of time necessary to provide such service.
- C. A new application shall be made and approved by the Company, upon any changes in use or occupancy of property or in the service as described in the application, and the Company shall be at liberty, upon five-day written notice, to discontinue water supply until such application has been made and approved. When Customer changes addresses, Customer shall give reasonable notice to Company prior to the date of change. Customer is responsible for all service supplied to the vacated premises until such notice has been received and Company has had a reasonable time, but not less than three (3) days, to discontinue service.
- D. Deposit: The Company may require from any Customer or prospective Customer a cash deposit to guarantee the payment of any bills due or which may become due from such Customer and safe return of all property belonging to the Company installed at the Customer's premises or elsewhere. Such required deposit shall not exceed an amount equivalent to a single estimated average bill in the case of residential Customers and two (2) estimated maximum bills for any other Customers. Residential Customers may negotiate monthly installments for initial service deposits in excess of One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) provided that the entire amount of the deposit is paid within sixty (60) days.
- E. Upon request, the Company shall refund the cash deposit collected from a residential Customer or waive any requirement of cash deposit from a residential Customer or waive any requirement of cash deposit from a residential Customer when such person meets the following specific criteria: (i) presents satisfactory proof that his or her age is sixty (60) years of more. A birth certificate or a current government-issued identification card shall be considered satisfactory proof of age; (ii) indicates that he or she is a primary user of the utility service and subscribed for such service in his or her own name; (iii) affirms responsibility for the payment of bills for the utility; and (iv) has demonstrated a reasonable



Mississippi Public Service Commission Rate Schedule No. 4			
Water Service Rules and Regulations		WSR-2	
Effective Date	Date of Version Superseded		Page
June 17, 2025	May 1, 2023		5 of 16

payment pattern by having had no balance carried forward from one month's bill to the next during the prior twelve-month period. In the event that such deposit has been refunded or waived and the Customer's payment pattern changes from the foregoing to one of greater frequency of past due bills or bills with prior balances, Customers will be required to restore the deposit so refunded or waived plus any additional amount required to guaranteed payment up to the limits set forth in this section.

- F. Interest on Deposits: Cash deposits made by customers which are held by the Company for one (1) year or more, shall earn simple interest that is no less than the twelve-month average of the 10-year Treasury Note Yield as published by the Federal Reserve System, but not to exceed the general interest rate established by Mississippi Code Ann. §75-17-1(1). The applicable interest rate will be determined and posted on the Commission's website on or before December 15 of each calendar year and will be effective for the prospective year. All accrued interest held by the Company shall be paid in cash or credited to the Customer's account on or before July 1<sup>st</sup> of each successive third year during which service is connected. The principal sum of the cash deposit and any unpaid interest shall be applied to the Customer's final bill, and any excess amount shall be paid to the Customer in cash. Cash deposits held for less than one full year shall earn no interest.
- G. Refusal to Serve: Company may decline to provide service to a Customer for any of the following reasons: (i) failure to comply with any of the rules and regulations of the Company; (ii) lack of adequate facilities to render the service requested or the requested service is likely to unfavorably affect the service to other Customers; (iii) the Applicant is indebted to the Company for the same kind of service, provided, however, that in the event that the indebtedness is in dispute, the Applicant shall comply with the deposit requirement, and, in addition thereto, make a special deposit in the amount equal to the lesser amount of the net balance in dispute or \$500 (if a residential Customer) or 50% of the net balance (if a non-residential Customer). Upon settlement of the dispute account, the balance, if any, of such special deposit due the Applicant shall be promptly repaid including interest as provided by Commission Rule.
- H. In any case of a dispute concerning refusal of service, Customer may submit a complaint with the Commission pursuant to the Commission's Rules.
- I. The following shall not constitute sufficient cause for refusal of service to a present or prospective Customer: (i) delinquency in payment for service by a previous occupant (not of the same household as the present Applicant) of the premises to be served; (ii) failure to pay for merchandise purchased from the Company; or (iii) failure to pay for a different



Mississippi Public S	Service Commission Rate	Schedule No. 4
	Water Service Rules and Regulations	
Effective Date	Date of Version Superseded	l Page
June 17, 2025	May 1, 2023	6 of 16

kind of public utility service, except pursuant to an agreement to disconnect water service for failure to pay sewer bills.<sup>1</sup>

J. Residential Customers may request a written explanation of the Company's decision to refuse service. The explanation shall include the reason service is being declined and what actions the Customer must take in order to receive service. The Applicant shall provide the Company with a valid mailing or email address where the response can be mailed or delivered via email. The Company shall provide and make available to their Applicants at all offices and on the Company's website appropriate forms for use by the Customer to request an explanation of the Company's decision to decline service. The Company shall mail or deliver via email the written explanation within seven (7) calendar days after receipt of the written request by mailing U.S. Mail, postage prepaid, or via email, to the known address of the potential ratepayers.

# 5. IMPROPER OR EXCESS USE

- A. No Customer shall be wasteful of the water supplied to the Unit by the Customer's willful action or inaction. It shall be the responsibility and duty of each Customer to maintain all piping and fixtures at the Unit in a good and efficient state of repair at all times.
- B. No Customer shall make or cause to be made a cross connection between the potable water supply and any source of chemical or bacterial contamination or any other water supply. The Company shall deny or discontinue service where Customer's Water Service Line or inside piping may, in the opinion of the Company, cause a cross-connection with non-potable water or otherwise jeopardize the health and safety of other Customer's or the Company's facilities.
- C. The Customer shall not make or cause to be made a connection to a device that will result in excessive water demand or excessive shock, such as water-hammer, to the Company's Mains.
- D. The Customer shall not tamper with, remove, or willfully damage any utility property including a fire hydrant or water Meter or attempt to operate the shutoff valve on the Meter yoke, or allow any such action.
- E. The Customer shall not attempt to take unmetered water from the Company's Mains either by an unauthorized tap or direct connection to Service Connection nor by connection to a fire hydrant.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> Any disconnection agreement entered into between the Company and another waste-water provider shall be preapproved by the Commission pursuant to a filing made in compliance with RP 10 of the Commission's Public Utilities Rules of Practice and Procedure.



Mississippi Public Service Commission Rate Schedule No. 4			
Water Service Rules and Regulations		WSR-2	
Effective Date	Date of Version Superseded	Page	
June 17, 2025	May 1, 2023	7 of 16	

F. Customers will not be permitted to supply water in any way to premises other than the service address, nor to permit others to use their hose or attachments, nor leave them exposed to use by others without permission from the Company.

#### 6. SERVICE CONNECTION

- A. The Company will provide water service at the outdoor Meter, at the Curb Stop if an indoor Meter Setting is utilized, or at the property line if neither an outdoor Meter nor a Curb Stop exists at or near the property line. Separate buildings that are not on one lot that cannot be subdivided shall be served through separate Water Service Lines.
- B. The Service Connection will be installed from the Main at a point determined by the Company when a proper application is made. The size of the service line and Meter will be determined by the Company and will be sufficient size to properly serve the Customer.
- C. The Service Connection from the water Main to the Customer's property line shall be owned and maintained by the Company. The Company will construct the Service Connection, outdoor Meter Setting and Curb Stop, as necessary, and make the connection to the Main, within three (3) business days of an application for service, or within the time period specified in the application for service.
- D. Water Service Line construction and maintenance from the property line, Curb Stop or Meter Setting, including the connection to the Curb Stop or Meter Setting, to the building shall be the responsibility of the Customer, and is subject to inspection by the Company. Customer shall be responsible for the cost of repairing any damage to the Company's Mains, Curb Stops, valve boxes, Meters, and Meter installations caused by the Customers, Customer's agent.
- E. Existing Water Service Lines and Service Connections may be used in connecting with new buildings only when they are found by examination and testing by a plumber, at the Customer's expense, not to constitute a hazard to the health and safety of any Customer or the Company's facilities.
- F. The Company reserves the right to discontinue serving any Customer, or not to commence serving any Customer whose plumbing does not conform to all regulations of any proper authority governing same.
- G. The Company shall in no event be responsible for maintaining the lines and fixtures on Customer's property or for damage done by water escaping therefrom.
- H. The Customer shall not use the service furnished in any manner that interferes with the rendering of proper service to other Customers of the Company.



Mississippi Public Service Commission Rate Schedule No. 4			
Water Service Rules and Regulations		W	SR-2
Effective Date	Date of Version Superseded		Page
June 17, 2025	May 1, 2023		8 of 16

I. The Company will notify Customers of any interruption of service whenever possible. Customer, however, shall be responsible for protecting against damage of any kind to any of their plumbing, equipment, facilities, machinery, boilers, etc., that might arise out of the sudden discontinuance of water service for any reason. Except as provided in Section 9 herein, the Company will not be liable for damage because of interruption or failure to give notice thereof.

#### 7. METERS

- A. Company will furnish and install the necessary Meter, and Customer shall provide and maintain a location, free of expense and satisfactory to the Company, for its installation. Customer shall protect the Meter against damage by or tampering by unauthorized persons. The Meter box, even in an indoor setting, is exclusively the Company's property and trespassers will be dealt with in accordance with the law applicable thereto. No persons or person, except employees of the Company, will be allowed to install, remove, or repair Meters.
- B. The Company reserves the right to test Meters whenever it believes to be necessary, but without charge to the Customer.
- C. The Company shall have access to the Customer's premises at all reasonable times and free to all tolls or other charges for the purpose of reading or testing its Meters or other facilities and for all other purposes necessary to enable the Company to render proper service to the Customer and to its other Customers. Meter boxes will not be locked, and all Meters will be available for inspection by both Customers and the Company. When the Customer requests a Meter to be turned on, it will be assumed that the Customer knows the condition of his plumbing and the Company shall not be responsible for the injury to the Customer or to the Customer's employees or to the Customer's property, premises, equipment, or facilities caused by water escaping on or in the Customer's premises.
- D. Company shall make a test of the accuracy of any water service Meter upon request of the Customer. The Customer shall be notified of the time and place of such test so that Customer may be present to witness the testing. A written report giving the result of such test shall be made to the Customer requesting the test. The original record shall be kept on file at the office of the Company.

# 8. <u>DISCONTINUANCE OF SERVICE</u>

- A. <u>Reasons</u>: Service under any application, including public fire service and any other public or private use, may be discontinued for any of the following reasons:
  - 1. Non-payment of a delinquent account not in dispute:



Mississippi Public Service Commission Rate Schedule No. 4			
Water Service Rules and Regulations		V	VSR-2
Effective Date	Date of Version Superseded		Page
June 17, 2025	May 1, 2023		9 of 16

- 2. Failure to post a security deposit or guarantee acceptable to the Company;
- 3. Unauthorized interference, diversion or use of the utility service situated or delivered on or about the Customer's premises;
- 4. Misrepresentation of identity in obtaining utility service;
- 5. Enclosing or obstructing any Meter so as to make reading or repairs unreasonably difficult;
- 6. Failure to comply with the terms and conditions of a settlement agreement;
- 7. Refusal after reasonable notice to grant access at reasonable times to equipment installed upon the premises of the Customer for the purpose of inspection, Meter reading, maintenance or replacement;
- 8. Violation of any of these Rules and Regulations on file with and approved by the Public Service Commission, or for any condition which adversely affects the safety of the Customer or other persons, or the integrity of the utility's delivery system; or
- 9. Non-payment of a sewer bill issued by the Company or by a sewer utility requesting discontinuance of water service by a Commission-approved disconnection agreement between the Company and the requesting sewer utility.<sup>2</sup> When water service is discontinued for non-payment of a sewer bill and if the sewer bill is not issued by the Company, any service charges for turn on/off or disconnection/reconnection within these Rules and Regulations shall not apply and notice to the Customer shall be provided by rules and procedure applicable to the Customer's sewer service in lieu of any notification required by these Rules and Regulations.
- B. None of the following shall constitute sufficient cause for the Company to discontinue service:
  - 1. <u>Life Threatening Situation</u>: Company shall not discontinue service to any residential Customer for a period of sixty (60) days for nonpayment when the utility receives written notice from a medical doctor licensed to practice in the State of Mississippi, or any adjoining state, certifying that Discontinuance of Service would create a life-threatening situation for the Customer or other permanent resident of the Customer's household. Company shall provide and make available to their Customers at all offices and on the Company's website appropriate forms for use by the Customer in certifying

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Any disconnection agreement entered into between the Company and another waste-water provider shall be preapproved by the Commission pursuant to a filing made in compliance with RP 10 of the Commission's Public Utilities Rules of Practice and Procedure.



Mississippi Public Service Commission Rate Schedule No. 4			
Water Service Rules and Regulations		W	/SR-2
Effective Date	Date of Version Superseded		Page
June 17, 2025	May 1, 2023		10 of 16

the life-threatening situation. The utility shall issue a receipt to the Customer acknowledging receipt of the written notice pursuant to this rule;

- 2. Except as provided in Section 8(A)(ix), the failure of the Customer to pay for merchandise, appliances, or service not subject to Commission jurisdiction as an integral part of the utility service provided by the Company;
- 3. The failure to pay a bill correcting a previous underbilling, whenever the Customer claims an inability to pay the corrected amount, unless a utility has offered the Customer a payment arrangement equal to the period of underbilling;
- 4. Delinquency in payment for service by a previous occupant (not of the same household as the present applicant) of the premises to be served; or
- 5. Violation of the Company's rules pertaining to operation of nonstandard equipment which interferes with service to others, or other services such as communication services, unless the Customer has first been notified and been afforded reasonable opportunity to comply with said rules; provided, however, that where a dangerous condition exists on a customer's premises, service may be refused or discontinued without notice.

# C. Procedure

- 1. Company shall not discontinue service to any Customer for violation of its rules and regulations nor for nonpayment of bills without first having used due diligence to give the Customer notice of such violation or delinquency and reasonable opportunity to comply with its rules and regulations or to pay his bills. In no case shall service be actually discontinued until after at least (5) five days written notice shall have been given to the Customer by the utility; provided, however, for fraudulent, careless, negligent, or unlawful use of the commodity or service, or where a dangerous condition is found to exist on the Customer's premises, service may be discontinued without advance notice. This notice shall include a date on or after discontinuance may occur. Such notice may be given by the utility by mailing by U.S. Mail, postage prepaid, to the known address of the Customer. Notice of delinquencies shall be considered to be given to the Customer when a copy of such notice is left with such Customer, left at the premises where service is provided, or posted in the U.S. Mail, addressed to the Customer at his last known address. A Customer shall have the privilege of paying any delinquent account at any time prior to the actual disconnection or turning off of service.
- 2. A discontinuance notice provided to a Customer shall include: a) the name and address of the Customer, the service address if different than the Customer's address; b) a statement of the reason for the proposed Discontinuance of Service and the cost for



Mississippi Public Service Commission Rate Schedule No. 4			
Water Service Rules and Regulations		V	VSR-2
Effective Date	Date of Version Supersede	d	Page
June 17, 2025	May 1, 2023		11 of 16

reconnection; c) how the Customer may avoid the discontinuance; d) the possibility of a payment agreement it the claim is for a charge not in dispute and the Customer is unable to pay the charge in full at one time; and e) a telephone number the Customer may call from the service location without incurring toll charges and the address and any available electronic contact information of the utility prominently displaced where the Customer may make an inquiry.

- 3. Company shall not discontinue service for non-payment of bills to a residential Customer on any Saturday or Sunday or any holiday observed by the Company unless Company is open to accept payment (including, but not limited to, a money order) and restore service on those days.
- 4. Company shall reconnect service in a prompt and efficient manner on the first business day after the balance due has been received by the utility, except under extreme circumstances where ongoing restoration efforts prevent reconnection from occurring within that time period.

# D. Change in Location of Service or Premises Served

1. When at a Customer's request, the utility changes the location or premises at which service is rendered, the service at the new and old locations or premises and the account therefore shall, for the purposes of these rules, be deemed one service and one account and the change of the location or premises to which service is rendered shall not be deemed to affect the rights of the utility with regard to the application of deposit or Discontinuance of Service for non-payment of the account.

# E. Other

- 1. Discontinuance of Service to a Unit for any reason shall not prevent the Company from pursuing any or all lawful remedies by action at law or otherwise for the collection of monies due from the Customer, which remedies shall be cumulative.
- 2. In case the Company discontinues its service for any violation of these Rules and Regulations, then any monies due the Company shall become immediately due and payable.
- 3. The Company has the right to refuse or to discontinue service to any Unit to protect itself against fraud or abuse.
- 4. The Company shall deal with Customers, handle Customer accounts, and manage Discontinuance of Service procedures in accordance with the Commission's Rules and Regulations.



Mississippi Public S	Service Commission Rate	Schedule No.	4
1	Water Service Rules and Regulations		: .
Effective Date	Date of Version Superseded	Page	
June 17, 2025	May 1, 2023	12 of 16	5

- 5. Applicable Reconnection and Disconnection Service charges are specified in the Schedule of Service Charges.
- 6. Where service has been discontinued for violation of any rule contained herein, the Company shall not be required to restore service until all unpaid accounts due from the Customer to the Company have been paid in full plus a re-connection charge as shown in the Company's current tariffs.
- 7. When a service is discontinued for any other cause, it will not be restored until the cause of the suspension has been removed or remedied.
- 8. The Company shall not be liable for damage occasioned by suspension of service when such suspension is affected in accordance with these provisions.

# 9. INTERRUPTION OF SERVICE

- A. All water furnished by the Company for human consumption or for domestic uses shall be pure, wholesome, potable, not dangerous to health and insofar as practicable, free from objectionable odor and taste. All water furnished by the Company for human consumption or household purposes shall comply with all requirements of the Mississippi State Board of Health.
- B. The Company shall have the right to suspend service temporarily to make necessary repairs or improvements to its system and shall notify the customers affected as soon as circumstances permit and shall prosecute the work with due diligence and with the least possible inconvenience to its customers. It is expressly stipulated by the Company that no claims shall be made against it and that no person shall be entitled to any damages nor to have any portion of payment refunded by reason of such shut off or the breaking of any pipe or service pipe or by reason of any other interruption of the supply of water caused by the breaking of machinery or for causes beyond its control. Company shall supply Customer a steady and reliable supply of water but does not warrant or guarantee the service against irregularities or interruptions. Company shall not be liable to Customer, whether under contract or otherwise, for any damages or loss, direct or consequential, by reason of the failure of the Company to supply, or the Customer to receive water, or for any interruption or abnormalities in the supply of water to Customer where such failure, interruption, reduction, abnormalities, or other irregularity, directly or indirectly, (i) is due to the negligence of Company, or its employees or contractors, and does not constitute gross negligence of or a willful default by Company or (ii) is the result, in whole or in part, of injunction, fire, strike, lockouts and other industrial or labor disturbances, riot, explosion, storm, hurricane, wind, lightning, flood, accident, breakdown, material shortage, delay in delivery, power interruption, governmental or regulatory action or inaction (including but not limited to action sought or supported by Company), acts of God, acts of any public enemy, civil disturbance, epidemics and pandemics, sabotage, delay or



Mississippi Public Service Commission Rate Schedule No. 4			
Water Service Rules and Regulations		WSR-2	
Effective Date	Date of Version Superseded	Page	
June 17, 2025	May 1, 2023	13 of 16	

failure of performance by a third party, war, national emergency, voluntary cooperation by the Company in any method of operation with, or in any program recommended or requested by civil or military authorities, or as a result of other acts or conditions, whether of the same or different type, which are beyond the reasonable control of the Company.

- C. The Company shall exercise reasonable diligence to furnish a continuous and adequate supply of water to its customers and to avoid any shortage of interruption of delivery thereof. It cannot, however, guarantee complete freedom from interruption. The Company shall have the right to reserve a sufficient supply of water at all times in its reservoirs to provide for fires or other emergencies. If compliance with orders or formal requests of any governmental agency, curtailing or diverting Company's available water resources, makes it impossible for Company to supply the full water requirements of or part of its Customers, Company shall not be liable for any injury or loss caused by the resultant curtailment, in whole or in part, of its supply or water to any Customer. During times of threatened or actual water shortage, the Company shall apportion its available water supply among its customers as directed by the city or Commission. In the absence of direction from the city or Commission, it shall apportion the supply in the manner that appears most equitable under the circumstances then prevailing with due regard to public health and safety.
- D. The Company does not guarantee any specific pressure for its service, the pressure will be that which will naturally result from the pressure maintained at the source of supply, the size of the Mains, the Customer's piping, and the elevation of the Customer's property. The Company shall make every effort to maintain a pressure on its distribution systems which shall not at any time fall below the minimum of 35 PSI or rise above the maximum pressure of 125 PSI at the Customer's service connection. However, on rural lines where fire protection is not furnished, the minimum pressure may be as low as 25 PSI.
- E. Water will be temporarily turned off at any premises upon the written request of the Customer; water service being turned off at the request of the Customer will not in any way affect the existing application.
- F. No persons, or person, other than those authorized by the Company, shall turn the water on or off at any corporation stop or Curb Stop, or move the Meter. In event the Company is unable to secure and / or maintain adequate right of way (including franchise, licenses and certificates) upon terms satisfactory to Company, Company's obligation to render service shall cease. Without reimbursement Customer shall furnish right of way on premises owned or controlled by Customer for Company's facilities necessary or incidental to service the Customer and shall maintain the Company in the use and occupancy thereof.
- G. As reflected in Section 8(A)(ix), the Company may disconnect water service for non-payment of a sewer bill if a Commission-approved disconnection agreement exists between the water and wastewater Company.



Mississippi Public	Service Commission Rate	Sche	edule No. 4
	vice Rules and ulations	W	/SR-2
Effective Date	Date of Version Superseded		Page
June 17, 2025	May 1, 2023		14 of 16

#### 10. BILLINGS AND PAYMENTS

- A. Upon the authority of the Mississippi Public Service Commission, the Company shall read Meters and render regular bills on a monthly, bi-monthly, or quarterly basis. Bills shall show the Meter reading and date at the end of the period covered by the bill, the quantity consumed, the gross and / or net amount of the bill, the dates of the bill or of delinquency, and if practicable, the designation of the applicable rate schedule and other essential facts upon which the bill is based. Company is authorized to calculate and render customer bills pursuant to the monthly flat rates in the Company's Commission-approved rate schedules in the event a meter has not yet been installed or the existing meter is damaged unreadable, or inaccessible.
- B. The charges for water service shall be at the rates specified in the Schedule of Rates in these Rules and Regulations. Other applicable service charges are set forth in the Schedule of Service Charges in these Rules and Regulations.
- C. Each Customer is responsible for furnishing the Company a correct mailing and/or email address for billing purposes. Failure to receive bills will not be considered an excuse for non-payment nor reason to permit an extension of the date when the account would be considered delinquent. Bills and notices relating to the Company or its business will be mailed or delivered to the mailing address entered in the Customer's application unless the Company is notified in writing by the Customer of a change of address. To the extent that the Company did not require an application for service, then all bills and notices shall be mailed or delivered to the service address.
- D. Neither the Company nor the Customer will be bound by bills rendered under mistake of fact as to the quantity of service rendered or as a result of clerical error. Customers will be held responsible for charges based on service provided.
- E. Payment by check or money order may be remitted to Great River Utility Operating Company, P.O. Box 676422, Dallas, Texas 75627-6422. Additional payment options may be available on the Company's website at www.centralstateswaterresources.com/great-river/.

# F. <u>Disputed Bills</u>

1. Residential Customers: In the event of a dispute between the Customer and the Company respecting any bill, the Company shall forthwith make such investigation as shall be required by the particular case and report the results thereof to the Customer. When the amount to be paid is in question, the Customer may make a deposit with the utility in an amount equal to the lesser of the amount of the disputed bill or five-hundred dollars (\$500.00), whereupon service shall not be discontinued pending settlement of



Mississippi Public	Service Commission Rate S	Schedule No. 4
	vice Rules and ulations	WSR-2
Effective Date	Date of Version Superseded	Page
June 17, 2025	May 1, 2023	15 of 16

the dispute. Upon settlement of the dispute by any means permitted or provided by law, the balance, if any, due the Customer shall be promptly repaid.

- 2. Non-Residential Customers: In the event of a dispute between the Customer and the Company respecting any bill, the Company shall forthwith make such investigation as shall be required by the particular case and report the results thereof to the Customer. When the amount to be paid is in question, the Customer may make a deposit with the Company covering no less than fifty percent (50%) of the amount of the disputed bill, whereupon service shall not be discontinued pending settlement of the dispute. Upon settlement of the dispute by any means permitted or provided by law, the balance, if any, due the Customer shall be promptly repaid.
- G. Meter Errors, Corrected and Pro-Rated Bills: Whenever a Meter in service is found, upon tests made by the Company or Commission in response to Customer complaints, to be in error in excess of three per cent (3%) or two per cent (2%) fast in case of Meter found to have been in service without a record test for a period of longer than that prescribed by the Commission for each kind of Meter as determined by the method herein prescribed by the Commission for finding the average error for each kind of Meter, a correction to the Customer shall be made as follows: a) If the date the Meter first became incorrect can be definitely ascertained, the correction shall be for the amount charged since that date over or below what the billing would have been had the Meter registered with one hundred (100) per cent accuracy. b) In all other cases, the correction shall be calculated as follows: The Customer's metered consumption for a period of three (3) months, next preceding the date of the test or the date the Meter was removed for the purpose of test, shall be reduced or increased by the application of the percentage of error related to one hundred (100) per cent accuracy as determined by the test. The rates effective during said period shall be applied to this adjusted consumption and the difference between the amount so obtained and the actual billing shall be refunded or charged to the Customer; provided, however, that no refund shall be allowed in any case if the seal on the Customer's Meter or Metering equipment is found to be broken or if there is any other evidence that the Meter or Metering equipment has been tampered with.
- H. Separate Metering and Billing: Separate Customer premises shall be metered and billed separately even if under common ownership, and combined Metering or billing shall not be permitted. Such premises shall be considered separate when not on the same tract or contiguous tracts of land or served from separate services, or when each is a complete Unit not physically integrated with, or essentially a part of the other or others. Tracts of land separated by public streets, roads or alleys shall be considered non-contiguous tracts. This rule does not require that existing office or apartment buildings separate the services to each office or apartment in the individual buildings.
- I. If a Customer's bill has not been paid after twenty-one (21) days from the billing date, on or after the twenty-second (22<sup>nd</sup>) day the Company will send a written notice of its intent



Mississippi Public	Service Commission Rate	Sche	dule No. 4
	vice Rules and ulations	W	SR-2
Effective Date	Date of Version Superseded		Page
June 17, 2025	May 1, 2023		16 of 16

to disconnect service in five (5) or more days unless payment is received. Water service will then be disconnected on or after the twenty-eighth (28<sup>th</sup>) day. A Late Payment Charge may be added to the Customer's bill. To restore service a Customer may be required to pay a reconnection fee, any amount still owed for a previous billing, and a Late Payment Charge. If a Customer fails to pay the Late Payment Charge, even if the Customer has paid the previous billing, the Company will send a written notice that service will be disconnected in ninety (90) days for non-payment.

#### 11. LATE PAYMENT CHARGE

- A. All Customer payments received twenty-two (22) days after the date of billing may be assessed an \$8.00 late payment charge. The Company shall not levy a Late Payment Charge on any portion of a bill which represents a previous Late Payment Charge. For purposes of this section, a payment received by a utility shall be credited first to any outstanding Late Payment Charge, if any.
- B. If the last day of any period calculated hereunder is a Saturday, Sunday, or Legal Holiday, then the period in question shall extend to the next full business day.

# 12. FIRE HYDRANT SERVICE:

- A. In addition to furnishing domestic and non-residential service, each utility furnishing fire hydrant service must be able, within a reasonable period of time after notice, to supply fire hydrant service to local fire fighting equipment and facilities. No utility shall, however, be required to install larger mains or fire hydrants or otherwise supply fire service unless proper contractual arrangements shall have been made with the utility by the municipality, agency or individual desiring such service.
- B. No person shall operate fire hydrants except Company employees, members of the Fire Department and governmental employees authorized to flush sewer and storm drains. No person shall take water from any fire hydrant for street sprinkling. Upon proper notice from the appropriate firefighting agency, the Company will install necessary fire hydrants.



Mississippi Public Service Commission Rate Schedule No. 5			
Water Service Extension Policy   WSEP-2			SEP-2
Effective Date	Date of Version Supersede	d	Page
June 17, 2025	May 1, 2023	- <del></del>	1 of 2

# **SERVICE EXTENSION POLICY**

- 1. This rule shall govern the extension of Mains or the installation of additional water production capacity and/or storage by the Company within its certified area where the existing production, storage, or transmission infrastructure is inadequate for the service requested by the Applicant(s).
- 2. Upon receipt of a written application for a service extension, the Company will provide the Applicant(s) an itemized estimate of the cost of the proposed extension. Said estimate shall include the cost of all labor and materials required, including wells, storage, valves, fire hydrants, booster stations, storage facilities, reconstruction of existing Mains (if necessary), and the direct costs associated with supervision, engineering, permits, and bookkeeping. The estimate will not include unanticipated costs such as rock excavation.
- 3. Applicant(s) shall enter a contract with the Company for the installation of said extension and shall tender to the Company the amount determined in paragraph 2 above. The costs quantified in paragraph 2 are independent of any Service Connection fees. The contract may allow the Customer to contract with an independent contractor for the installation and supply of material, except that any new production facilities, Mains of twelve inches (12") of greater diameter, and the reconstruction of existing facilities must be installed by the Company.
- 4. The cost to an Applicant(s) connecting to an extension contributed by other Applicant(s), shall be as follows:
  - A. For single-family residential Applicant(s) applying for service in a platted Subdivision, the Company shall divide the actual cost of the extension paid by other Applicant(s) by the number of lots abutting said extension to determine the per-lot extension cost. When counting lots, corner lots which abut existing Mains shall be excluded.
  - B. For single-family residential Applicant(s) applying for service in areas that are unplatted in Subdivision lots, an Applicant(s) cost shall be equal to the total cost of the extension divided by the total length of the Main extension in feet times one hundred (100 feet).
  - C. For industrial, non-residential, or multifamily residential Applicants, the cost will be equal to the amount calculated for a single-family residence in paragraphs 4(a) and 4(b) above, multiplied by the flow factors of the Applicants' Meter. The flow factors of the various size of the Meters are as follows:



Mississippi Public Service Commission Rate Schedule No. 5			
Water Service Extension Policy WSEP-2			SEP-2
Effective Date	Date of Version Supersede	d	Page
June 17, 2025	May 1, 2023		2 of 2

Meter Size	Flow Factor
5/8"	1
1"	2.5
1 ½"	5
2"	8
3"	15
4"	25

- 5. Refunds of funds paid by Applicant(s) for any estimated costs or actual costs of an extension shall be made to such Applicant(s) as follows:
  - A. Should the actual cost of the extension be less than the estimated cost as determined in paragraph 2, above, the Company shall refund the difference to the Applicant(s) as soon as the actual cost has been ascertained.
  - B. During the first ten (10) years after the extension is completed, the Company will refund to the Applicant(s) who paid for the extension the money collected from Applicant(s) based upon the allocations for each Customer in accordance with paragraph 4, above. The refund shall be paid within a reasonable time after the money is collected. The requirement to make a refund shall attach to the property. Thus, if the original Applicant(s) has moved, then the refund shall be made to the new property owner.
  - C. The sum of all refunds to any Applicant shall not exceed the total amount which the Applicant(s) has paid net of the allocated cost to such Applicant pursuant to paragraph 4.
- 6. Extensions made under this rule shall be and remain the property of the Company.
- 7. The Company reserves the right to further extend the Main and to connect Mains on intersecting streets and easements. Connecting new Customers to such further extensions shall not entitle the Applicant(s) paying for the original extension to a refund for the connection of such Customers.
- 8. Extensions made under this rule shall be of Company-approved pipe sized to meet water service requirements. If the Company chooses to size the extension larger in order to meet the Company's overall system requirements, the additional cost caused by the larger size of pipe shall be borne by the Company.
- 9. No interest will be paid by the Company on payments for an extension made by the Applicant(s).
- 10. If extensions are required on private roads, streets, through private property, or on private property adjacent to public right-of-way, a proper deed of easement must be furnished to the Company without cost to the Company before the extension will be made.



Mississippi Public	Service Commission R	ate Sch	edule No.6
Formula	Rate Plan	$\mathbf{F}$	RP-2
Effective Date	Date of Version Supers	eded	Page
June 17, 2025	May 1, 2023		1 of 11

#### I. GENERAL

Formula Rate Plan Rider FRP ("Rider FRP") is authorized under Section 77-3-2(3) of the *Mississippi Code of 1972, as amended*, as a formula type rate of return evaluation rate. Rider FRP defines the procedure by which the rates contained in the Great River Utility Operating Company, LLC ("Great River" or "Company") rate schedules may be periodically adjusted. Rider FRP shall apply, in accordance with the provisions of Section II below, to all water and wastewater service billed under the Company's Rate Schedules, whether metered or unmetered, subject to the jurisdiction of the Mississippi Public Service Commission ("MPSC" or "Commission"). The computation of time prescribed in this Rider FRP shall be in accordance with the Commission's Rules, as such rules may be amended from time to time.

#### II. APPLICATION AND ANNUAL REDETERMINATION PROCEDURE

#### A. RATE ADJUSTMENTS

The Rate Adjustments shall be determined in accordance with the provisions of Sections II.B and II.C below.

#### B. ANNUAL REPORT AND REVIEW

# i. FILING DATE AND FILING REQUIREMENTS

On or before February 28<sup>th</sup> of each year, Great River shall file a report with the Commission containing a calculation of the Company's revenue requirement and Actual Return on Rate Base based for the twelve months ending December 31 of the previous year (the "Test Year") prepared in accordance with the provisions of Section II.C below. This annual filing shall be referred to as the "FRP Annual Report". Any revised rate schedules shall be filed with the FRP Annual Report incorporating any revenue adjustment determined in accordance with the provisions of Section II.C below. Consistent with Commission Rules, separate FRP Annual Reports shall be filed for each service provided, one for water and one for wastewater. Each FRP Annual Report will be separately docketed each year. For purposes of rate adjustments under this Rider FRP, the information listed in Attachment 4 shall be deemed to meet the filing requirements required by Commission Rule.

#### ii. INTERIM RATES AND PERMANENT RATES

If the FRP Annual Report indicates a revenue and rate adjustment is needed, Great River shall implement the following:

a. Interim Rate: This rate shall be implemented beginning with the first billing cycle of April and shall be designed to collect the entire revenue requirement, including any revenue adjustments indicated by the FRP Annual Report, over the remaining nine (9) months of the calendar year (April through December). The Interim Rate



Mississippi Public	Service Commission F	Rate Sch	redule No.6
Formula	Rate Plan	F	RP-2
Effective Date	Date of Version Superseded		Page
June 17, 2025	May 1, 2023		2 of 11

shall become effective upon Great River providing a bond or other surety traditionally used by Mississippi public utilities to secure such obligations. The Interim Rate is subject to a two percent (2%) cap of the Test Year aggregate retail revenues and will remain in effect through the date of implementation of the rates approved by a Commission order, or by operation of the terms of this Rider FRP.

- b. Permanent Rate: Upon approval of the FRP Annual Report by Commission order or by operation of the terms of this Rider FRP, Permanent Rates calculated consistent with the methodology below shall become immediately effective:
  - 1. The Permanent Rate shall be designed to collect the authorized annual revenue requirement over a twelve-month (12) period. Permanent Rates shall remain effective until superseded by subsequent rates implemented pursuant to the procedures of this Rider FRP or otherwise by Commission order.
  - 2. A surcharge or refund will be designed and implemented with the Permanent Rate and will cease with the last billing cycle of the calendar year. This rate is designed to collect or return any necessary adjustment to ensure the full annual revenue requirement is collected for the current calendar year.
- c. The Interim Rate, Permanent Rate and surcharge or refund shall be designed to collect the Commission approved calendar year's revenue requirement within the same calendar year.

#### iii. REVIEW PERIOD

The Mississippi Public Utilities Staff ("Staff"), its outside advisors, if any, and all interveners of record (each a "Party" and collectively the "Reviewing Parties") shall have a total of eighty (80) calendar days from the date of filing to review the FRP Annual Report and document and report any errors, issues or disputes. The Reviewing Parties may request clarification and additional supporting data in accordance with the Commission's Rules governing data requests. The response to any request for clarification or additional supporting data shall be provided within twenty (20) calendar days of the request. If the Reviewing Parties should detect any error(s) in the application of the provisions of Rider FRP or should otherwise disagree with any of the computations, revenues, or costs included in such computations, such error(s) and/or disagreements shall be formally communicated in writing to the Commission and Great River within eighty (80) calendar days of filing. Each such indicated error or disagreement shall include documentation of the proposed correction. The Company shall then have ten (10) calendar days to review any proposed corrections and/or adjustments, to work with the Reviewing Parties to resolve any differences and to file a revised rate schedules reflecting all corrections and adjustments upon which the Reviewing Parties agree. The Company shall provide the Reviewing Parties with all



Mississippi Public	Service Commission Ra	te Sche	dule No.6
Formula	Rate Plan	FF	RP-2
Effective Date	Date of Version Supersec	led	Page
June 17, 2025	May 1, 2023		3 of 11.

work papers supporting any revisions made to the FRP Annual Report initially filed for the Test Year.

To the extent that there are no issues raised during the annual review period of the FRP or any issues raised are amicably resolved, i.e., there are no unresolved issues to be addressed pursuant to Section II.B.iv, the Company and Reviewing Parties shall submit a summary of the proceedings to the Commission for consideration as timely as practicable, including the terms under which any issues have been resolved and the resulting effect on revenue requirement and rates.

#### iv. RESOLUTION OF DISPUTED ISSUES

In the event there is an unresolved dispute between Great River and one or more of the Reviewing Parties, before the conclusion of the ninety (90) day review period, the parties shall jointly submit to the Commission a statement of the issues to be resolved. Any Party may separately submit memoranda supporting their respective positions. The Commission shall render a ruling on such disputed issues on or before the first billing cycle of July of the filing year. Notwithstanding the provisions above, in the event the Test Year revenue requirement remains unauthorized or unapproved, Great River may implement, subject to refund by subsequent order of the Commission, a Rate Under Bond comprised of the Permanent Rates and surcharge/refund described above beginning with the first billing cycle of July upon Great River providing bond or other surety traditionally used by Mississippi public utilities to secure such obligations. The Permanent Rate portion of the Rate Under Bond to be placed into effect shall be calculated based in accordance with Section II.B.ii.b.1 above.

If a dispute or error is resolved such that there are changes in the revenue requirement and initially implemented schedule of rates pursuant to the above provisions, a revised revenue requirement and revised schedule of rates containing such further modified revenue requirement shall be submitted to the Commission within five (5) days of the Commission's order resolving the dispute. In addition to reflecting the Commission's ruling on the disputed issue, the final revenue requirement and revised schedules of rates shall also reflect the adjustments necessary to recover or credit the estimated revenue increase or decrease, respectively, that would have resulted had the final revenue requirement been implemented initially. Such revised rates reflecting the modified revenue requirement shall then become effective at the end of five (5) days, unless approved earlier by order of the Commission, and shall remain in effect until superseded by new rates established under this Rider FRP.



Mississippi Public	Service Commission 1	Rate Sch	edule No.6
Formula	Rate Plan	FF	RP-2
Effective Date	Date of Version Superseded		Page
June 17, 2025	May 1, 2023		4 of 11

#### C. ANNUAL REDETERMINATION OF RATE ADJUSTMENTS

#### i. DEFINITION OF TERMS

#### a. TEST YEAR

The Test Year shall be the twelve-month period ending December 31 immediately preceding the year in which the FRP Annual Report is filed. Attachment 1 to Rider FRP is a list of authorized ratemaking adjustments allowable to the per books amounts during the Test Year.

#### b. SYSTEM ACQUISITION REGULATORY ASSET

A regulatory asset referred to herein as the System Acquisition Regulatory Asset ("SARA") will be accrued to reflect any operating losses incurred and booked during the Test Year associated with any newly acquired utility system not yet being charged a rate under Great River's approved Tariff. The SARA will accrue for such systems from the date of acquisition until the rates are next adjusted within the FRP, at which point the system will be subject to consolidated rates, adjusted for any RMRA (discussed below) and will no longer incur the SARA operating losses. The SARA operating loss for an acquired system will be calculated using the following formula for each acquired service area:

Revenue - General & Administrative Expense - Operations & Maintenance = SARA Operating Loss.

For each system to which this provision is applicable during the Test Year, Great River must submit the operating loss calculations for the SARA consistent with Attachment 2 of the FRP. The SARA will be submitted and reviewed annually as part of the FRP Annual Report review and is subject to adjustment as part of those proceedings. The approved SARA will be amortized for ratemaking purposes over a seven (7) year period with: (1) the unamortized portion included in Rate Base; and (2) the amortized amount included as Amortization of Regulatory Asset.

#### c. RATE MITIGATION REGULATORY ASSET

In Docket Nos. 2022-UN-86 and 2022-UN-87, Great River was authorized to establish a regulatory asset (referred to herein as the Rate Mitigation Regulatory Asset ("RMRA")) to defer a percentage of annual general and administrative expense and operation and maintenance expense for any utility system subject to the rates calculated pursuant to this FRP for the first time. RMRA was discontinued for any system acquisitions approved on or after January 1, 2025. For water systems previously subject to RMRA the deferral percentage shall be sixteen and one-half percent (16.5%); for newly acquired sewer systems the deferral percentage shall be thirty-two percent (32%). The RMRA deferral shall be limited to one (1) year per



Mississippi Public Service Commission Rate Schedule No.6			
Formula	Rate Plan	F	RP-2
Effective Date	Date of Version Supers	eded	Page
June 17, 2025	May 1, 2023		5 of 11

utility system previously subject to RMRA. For each system to which this provision is applicable during the Test Year, Great River shall submit the deferral calculations for the RMRA consistent with Attachment 2 of the FRP. The RMRA will be submitted and reviewed annually as part of the FRP Annual Report review and is subject to adjustment as part of those proceedings. The approved RMRA will be amortized for ratemaking purposes over a seven (7) year period with: (1) the unamortized portion included in the Rate Base; and (2) the amortized amount included as Amortization of Regulatory Asset.

#### d. ACTUAL RETURN ON RATE BASE

The Actual Return on Rate Base ("AROR") to be included in the FRP Annual Report shall be determined using the schedule included in Attachment 3 and shall reflect the actual results for the Test Year, as recorded on the Company's books in accordance with NARUC Uniform System of Accounts and as adjusted per the terms of Attachment 1.

#### e. BENCHMARK RETURN ON RATE BASE

The Benchmark Return on Rate Base ("BROR") for filing years 2024, 2025 and 2026 shall equal to 8.95%. The Commission shall initiate a review of provisions of Rider FRP following the conclusion of the FRP Annual Report for 2026 to reevaluate the methodology for determining the BROR to apply prospectively beginning with filing year 2027.

#### f. RANGE OF NO CHANGE

The Range of No Change shall be the range of values with a lower limit ("Lower Point") equal to .50% below the BROR and an upper limit ("Upper Point") equal to .50% above the BROR.

#### g. ADJUSTMENT POINT

The Return on Rate Base Adjustment Point ("Adjustment Point") shall be equal to the midpoint of the Range of No Change.

#### ii. REVENUE ADJUSTMENTS

A determination shall be made pursuant to this section as to whether Great River's revenues should be increased, decreased or remain the same. If it is determined that revenues should be increased or decreased, revised rate schedules shall be adjusted and filed with the FRP Annual Report. The determination of any change to current revenue shall be made in accordance with the following rules:

\*\*MPSC Electronic Copy \*\* 2025-UN-34 Filed On 6/18/2025\*\*



Mississippi Public	Service Commission Rate	Schedule No.6
Formula	Rate Plan	FRP-2
Effective Date	Date of Version Supersede	d Page
June 17, 2025	May 1, 2023	6 of 11

#### a. NO RIDER FRP CHANGE

There shall be no change in Great River's revenue requirement and rates for FRP if the AROR is within the Range of No Change (i.e., greater than or equal to the Lower Point and less than or equal to the Upper Point).

#### b. RIDER FRP INCREASE - ROE

If the AROR is less than the Lower Point, Great River's revenue requirement for FRP shall be increased by one hundred percent (100%) of the amount necessary to bring the AROR to the Adjustment Point.

#### c. RIDER FRP DECREASE - ROE

If the AROR exceeds the Upper Point, Great River's revenue requirement for FRP shall be reduced by one hundred percent (100%) of the amount necessary to bring the AROR to the Midpoint.

#### iii. RIDER FRP REVENUE ALLOCATION

The Rider FRP revenue, as determined under the provisions of Section II.C.ii above, shall be allocated to each applicable rate schedule based on each rate schedule's relative percent of total revenues. This percentage shall be developed by dividing the Rider FRP revenue increase/decrease by the total applicable base revenue.

#### III.PROVISIONS FOR OTHER RATE CHANGES

# A. EXTRAORDINARY COST OR REVENUE CHANGES

If Great River experiences a single extraordinary increase or decrease or multiple extraordinary increases or decreases in expenses or revenue, or a single extraordinary increase or decrease or multiple extraordinary increases or decreases in base revenues, net of any related offsetting increases or reductions in expenses, in a test year having a net annual revenue requirement impact exceeding ten percent (10%) on a Mississippi retail jurisdictional basis, Great River may file for rate or other relief outside the provisions of this Rider FRP, but in accordance with the law of the State of Mississippi governing such filings, and the request will be handled by the Commission in accordance with its regulations and applicable law governing such filings. In no event, shall any such ratemaking provide for multiple recoveries of the same expenses or revenues, whether in the same or subsequent years.

#### **B. SPECIAL RATE FILINGS**

The FRP shall not preclude Great River from proposing revisions to existing rate schedules or new rate schedules, such as experimental, developmental, and alternative rate schedules,



Mississippi Public Service Commission Rate Schedule No.6					
Formula Rate Plan F			RP-2		
Effective Date	Date of Version Super	Page			
June 17, 2025	May 1, 2023		7 of 11		

to address competitive and other business needs. Great River shall file any such proposed rate schedules or changes with the Commission and the Commission shall evaluate Great River's proposals in accordance with the rules and procedures then in effect.

#### C. FORCE MAJEURE

If any cause beyond the reasonable control of the Company, such as natural disaster, damage or loss of major capital equipment, orders or acts of civil or military authority, terrorist attacks, government mandates, the happening of any event or events which cause increased costs to the Company, or other causes, whether similar or not, results in a deficiency in revenues which is not readily capable of being redressed in a timely manner under Rider FRP, Great River may file for rate or other relief outside the provisions of this Rider FRP, but in strict accord with the law of the State of Mississippi governing such filing and said request will be handled by the Commission in accordance with its regulations and applicable law governing such filings.

#### IV. EFFECTIVE DATE AND TERM

Rider FRP shall continue in effect until modified or terminated by the Commission in accordance with the law of the State of Mississippi. If this Rider FRP is terminated by a future order of the Commission, the then-existing total FRP revenue shall continue to be in effect until new base rates reflecting the then-existing total FRP revenue are duly approved and implemented. Further, any unamortized portion of the SARA or RMRA deferrals shall be included in future rates until fully amortized. Nothing contained in the Rider FRP shall limit the right of any party to file an appeal as provided by law.



Mississippi Public Service Commission Rate Schedule No.6				
Formula	FR	'RP-2		
Effective Date	Date of Version Superseded		Page	
June 17, 2025	May 1, 2023		8 of 11	

# ADJUSTMENTS TO TEST YEAR BOOK AMOUNTS

The Company's ratemaking adjustments to the per books amounts shall be limited to the following:

- 1. Long term debt interest expense shall be annualized by summing the per books long-term debt interest in December of the Test Year and multiplying the result times twelve (12).
- 2. Rate base shall be as of December 31 per the books of the Company.
- 3. Depreciation expenses shall be annualized by multiplying the per books depreciation expense incurred in December of the Test Year times twelve (12).
- 4. Property tax expense shall be annualized by multiplying the current effective millage rate times the December 31 plant in service.
- 5. Interest income shall be annualized by multiplying the per books interest income incurred in December of the Test Year times twelve (12).
- 6. All fines and penalties shall be excluded from expenses.
- 7. All charitable contributions shall be excluded from expenses.
- 8. All political contributions and lobbying activities shall be excluded from expenses.
- 9. The SARA authorized by Rider FRP shall not be included in any of these prescribed adjustments to ensure there is no double recovery of those expenses. An amortized portion of the SARA shall, however, be included as an expense in the Test Year and the unamortized portion included in rate base.
- 10. The RMRA authorized by Rider FRP shall not be included in any of these prescribed adjustments to ensure there is no double recovery of those expenses. An amortized portion of the RMRA shall, however, be included as an expense in the Test Year and the unamortized portion included in rate base.
- 11. The Company or the Staff may propose that unusual or nonrecurring revenues or expenses incurred during the Test Year either may be excluded from expenses altogether or deferred and amortized over a reasonable number of years. The party making such a proposal shall have the burden to demonstrate that it is just and reasonable.
- 12. The tax consequences of any adjustment shall be calculated in arriving at Net Income.
- 13. Except as otherwise provided in the Rider FRP, the Company shall not include post-Test Year adjustments.



Mississippi Public Service Commission Rate Schedule No.6					
Formula	RP-2				
Effective Date	Date of Version Superseded		Page		
June 17, 2025	May 1, 2023		9 of 11		

# **SYSTEM ACQUISITION REGULATORY ASSET**

For as long as a SARA remains on Great River's books, each Annual FRP Report shall contain the following information and documentation:

- 1. All calculations in their native format detailing the operating costs of each system included in the regulatory asset.
- 2. All calculations in their native format detailing the revenues included from those customers of each system included in the regulatory asset.
- 3. All calculations in their native format detailing the losses included from those customers of each system included in the regulatory asset along with a narrative detailing each type of expense.
- 4. A narrative detailing the difference in operating expenses from the most recent annual report or audited financial report, if available, for each system included in the regulatory asset.
  - 5. Any amortization expense associated with any and all SARA on Great River's books.

Without exception, any losses included in the regulatory asset should not be double counted as an expense in any current or future test year of the FRP.

# RATE MITIGATION REGULATORY ASSET

For as long as a RMRA remains on Great River's books, each Annual FRP Report shall contain the following information and documentation:

- 1. All calculations in their native format detailing the operating costs of each system included in the regulatory asset.
- 2. Any amortization expense associated with any and all RMRA on Great River's books.

Without exception, any costs deferred in the regulatory asset should not be double counted as an expense in any current or future test year of the FRP.



Mississippi Public Service Commission Rate Schedule No.6					
Formula Rate Plan FRP-					
Effective Date	Date of Version Supersec	Page			
June 17, 2025	May 1, 2023		10 of 11		

# CALCULATION OF ACTUAL RETURN ON RATE BASE

Line # _(A)	Description (B)	Test Year Actual (C)	Adjustments (D)	Test Year Total (E)	Note (F)
1					
2	Operating Revenue				
3					
4	Operating Expenses				
5	General & Administrative Expense				
6	Operations & Maintenance				
	Expense				
.7	Depreciation				
8	Capitalization of Regulatory Asset				
9	Amortization, Miscellaneous				
10	Amortization of Regulatory Asset				
11	<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>				Sum of Lines 5-10
12					
13	Gross Operating Income				Line 2 less Line 11
14	Interest E				
15 16	Interest Expense				
17	Francis Association for the contract of the co				
1 /	Funds Available for Income Tax				Line 13 less Line 15
18	and Equity				-
19	Less Income Taxes				Chabuta and have made diverse
17	Less meome raxes				Statutory tax rate times Line 17
20					Liffe 17
21	Net Income				Line 17 less Line 19
22	Tio Micomo				_ Ellie 17 less Ellie 19
23	Rate Base		•		
24					
25	Actual Return on Rate Base				Line 21 divided by Line23
26					
					•



Mississippi Public Service Commission Rate Schedule No.6				
Formula Rate Plan FRP-2				
Effective Date	Date of Version Superseded		Page	
June 17, 2025	May 1, 2023		11 of 11	

# **FILING REQUIREMENTS**

Each FRP Annual Report shall contain the following documentation, data and information:

- 1. Input Schedule of Financial Assumptions;
- 2. Balance Sheet for the Test Year;
- 3. Income Statement for the Test Year;
- 4. Rate Comparison Sheet of Existing and Adjusted Rates;
- 5. Rate Base Detail;
- 6. RMRA and SARA calculations in accordance with Attachment 2 above;
- 7. Calculated AROR for the Test Year in accordance with Attachment 3 above;
- 8. Revenue Adjustment Calculation.
- 9. Summary of Adjustments to Test Year Book Amounts; and
- 10. Copy of notice to customers sent pursuant to Rule 9 of the Commission's Rules.