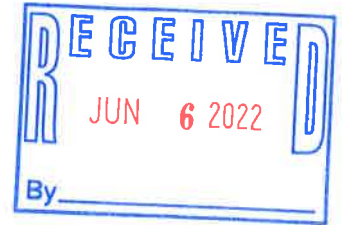


Kenneth K. (Keith) Nash II

4th District Commissioner
Hickman County Legislative Body
10004 McFarlin Road
Bon Aqua, Tennessee 37025
kkeithnash@bellsouth.net



June 1, 2022

Commissioner David Salyers
Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation
312 Rosa L. Parks Avenue, 2nd Floor
Nashville, Tennessee 37243

Re: Opposition to Proposed East Hickman Water Reclamation Facility, Permit
Number TN0082376

Dear Commissioner,

Thank you for your service to the great State of Tennessee and for your continued commitment to Governor Lee to ensure the safe keeping of our environment and natural resources. As you are aware the Water Authority of Dickson County (WADC), has submitted a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) application along with a Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) with the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation for the purpose of establishing a Water Reclamation Facility in East Hickman County with the final termination of the discharge effluent into Lick Creek.

On page 32 of the PER, in the final paragraph titled "Community Engagement" the WADC stated, "*Discussion about this project with community leaders have been ongoing for several years, and all agree that this project is necessary for the continued growth of the area*". While there are numerous issues that I could raise in regards to the PER, it is this encompassing statement that I wish to address with you at this time.

Allow me a moment to introduce myself. My name is Keith Nash. I have had the privilege and honor of representing my friends, neighbors and community for sixteen years as a Commissioner representing the 4th District in Hickman County. Between the years of 2014-2018, I also was the Chairman of the County Commission. As Chairman I was involved in every aspect of the business of running Hickman County. I had the opportunity to see all legislation, preview all issues and ensure that the business of running the county was conducted appropriately. The 4th District is ground zero for the changes the WADC has in store for Hickman County. The 4th District is the area identified by the WADC as to where they desire for the Water Reclamation Facility to be located. During the sixteen years that I have served as a Commissioner and also for the four years I served as Chairman, at no time has an employee of the WADC, a representative of the WADC or someone acting on behalf of the WADC ever approached me to

discuss in any fashion the proposal that has recently become public. I have not seen any documents, nor have I had any correspondence of any type with the WADC about their plans for our community.

I find the choice of wording on the part of the WADC in the PER to be very interesting. They have chosen to use the phrase "community leaders" instead of "local elected officials". If one reviews all the enabling documents to our County, State and Federal Government I do not believe you will see anything about "community leaders". You certainly do not see where unnamed "community leaders" are authorized to speak on behalf or make decisions for a political subdivision of the State of Tennessee. Rather, we entrust in elected officials the sole responsibility and authority to speak for our communities; Cities, Counties and State. There is only one voice of the people of Hickman County and that is our elected Board of County Commissioners. The fact that the Hickman County Board of County Commissioners had never heard of or acted on any proposed plan by the WADC may be the reason the WADC chose to mislead your Department with the phrase "community leaders". Clearly, as you and your department are now seeing not everyone agrees with the necessity of the project as the WADC attempts to portray. Let me loudly proclaim as an elected official representing the 4th District of Hickman County that I do not agree that this project is necessary for the continued growth of the area.

The WADC has acted as a bad neighbor, in bad faith and has attempted in the darkness of night to bully their way into a community where they have not been invited or their help requested. The actions of the WADC in regards to their false portrayal under this final section called "Community Engagement" should alone be enough to cause your Department sufficient concern to question where else the WADC is trying to mislead.

It is my desire, as an Elected Official in the 4th District of Hickman County, that you would recognize that an unelected board, comprised solely of citizens in Dickson County, appointed by the Mayor of Dickson County have no authority to determine the future of Hickman County. No matter how good their intentions may be, (and I do question whether their intentions are good), they have no authority to act on our behalf. They have assumed a decision making role not given to them by any action of the people of Hickman County. The WADC has conducted itself in a shameless, arrogant manner that assumed that their needs and desires outweighed the desires of the people of Hickman County. The WADC not only thought they could bully their desires upon us, but they also seemed to think they could mislead you and your Department as to the reception they would receive. I truly hope that the other water utility districts that you must work with do not conduct themselves as poorly as the WADC has.

It is my further desire as an Elected Official representing the 4th District of Hickman County that you would, based on the misleading statements of the WADC, set aside their PER and other filings as bad work product and deny any permit to the WADC in regards to this proposal. I would also think that based on how poorly the WADC has dealt with and represented this situation that their other filings with the State may merit a closer look. This type of behavior is seldom a single occurrence or anomaly, but rather an indicator of a deeply flawed organization.

Again, thank you for your service to the great State of Tennessee and to Governor Lee.

With warmest regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "K Nash". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Keith Nash

Cc: Gregory T. Young, TDEC
Jennifer Dodd, TDEC
Stephanie Durman, TDEC
Amada Mathis (via email only)
Rodes Hart (via email only)