

BEFORE THE TENNESSEE BOARD OF UTILITY REGULATION

IN THE MATTER OF:	)	
	)	
	)	
SOUTH FORK UTILITY DISTRICT	)	TENN. CODE ANN. § 7-82-704
BRISTOL-BLUFF CITY UTILITY DISTRICT	)	
	)	
	)	

ORDER

This order corrects a scrivener's error in the Board's October 3, 2025 order. To the extent the orders are inconsistent, this order controls.

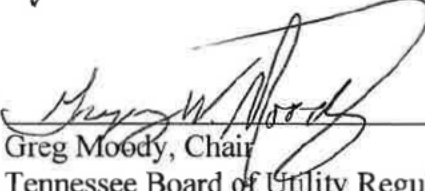
On October 2, 2025, the Tennessee Board of Utility Regulation ("the Board") reviewed the proposed merger of the South Fork Utility District ("SFUD") with the Bristol-Bluff City Utility District ("BBCUD") (together, "the Utilities"). The Board's August 18, 2025 order ("the Order", entered at the Board's July 17, 2025 meeting) required the Utilities to merge. At the August 14, 2025 meeting of SFUD's Board of Commissioners, the commissioners voted to contest the Order.

Board staff maintain that the merger between the Utilities is in the best interest of the Utilities' customers, and the evidence indicates this to be the case. This is especially true for SFUD's customers: in addition to the benefits of being part of a larger utility, SFUD's customers would have immediately received a 5% rate decrease from their existing rates.

The Board may order utility systems to merge when at least one of the utilities is ailing, as defined in Tenn. Code Ann. § 10-7-504. SFUD is an ailing utility district but currently shows at least nominal financial stability. SFUD's leadership appears to be adamantly opposed to merging with another utility district, despite both the immediate and long-term benefits for its customers.

Given SFUD's opposition to a merger and its temporary financial stability, the Board will not continue to force a merger at this time. Accordingly, the Board's August 18, 2025 order is withdrawn.

ENTERED on this, the 20 day of October, 2025.



Greg Moody, Chair
Tennessee Board of Utility Regulation