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January 3, 2024

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North Carolina Utilities Commission
Fiscal Management Division
430 N. Salisbury Street
Raleigh, NC 27603

Attn: Joann Snyder

Commitment Letter

This commitment letter acknowledges that a Commercial Surety Bond has been issued for Red Bird Utility Operating Company, LLC to the North Carolina Utilities Commission, that renews annually – Bond No. [REDACTED]

- The issuance of the Commercial Surety Bond did not require Red Bird Utility Operating Company, LLC to pledge any of its assets.
- There was a “premium paid” of \$1,500 for the issuance of the Commercial Surety Bond.

Sincerely,

Gregory L. Stanley
Vice President

BOND

Red Bird Utility Operating Company, LLC, of St. Louis, Missouri, as Principal, and RLI Insurance Company (Name of Surety), a corporation created and existing under the laws of Illinois (State), as Surety, (hereinafter called "Surety") are bound to the State of North Carolina in the sum of One Hundred Thousand and 00/100 Dollars (\$100,000.00) and for which payment to be made, the Principal and Surety by this bond binds themselves their successors and assigns.

THE CONDITION OF THIS BOND IS:

WHEREAS, the Principal is or intends to become a public utility subject to the laws of the State of North Carolina and the rules and regulations of the North Carolina Utilities Commission, relating to the operation of a water and/or sewer utility that intends to provide service to the Lake Royale subdivision in Franklin and Nash Counties, North Carolina, and,

WHEREAS, North Carolina General Statutes § 62-110.3 requires the holder of a franchise for water or sewer service to furnish a bond with sufficient surety, as approved by the Commission, conditioned as prescribed in § 62-110.3, and, Commission Rules R7-37 and/or R10-24, and R10-24-6, and

WHEREAS, the Principal and Surety have delivered to the Commission a Surety Bond with an endorsement as required by the Commission, and

WHEREAS, the appointment of an emergency operator, either by the superior court in accordance with North Carolina General Statutes § 62-118(b) or by the Commission with the consent of the owner, shall operate to forfeit this bond, and

WHEREAS, if for any reason, the Surety Bond is not to be renewed upon its expiration, the Surety shall, at least 60 days prior to the expiration date of the Surety Bond, provide written notification by means of certified mail, return receipt requested, to the Chief Clerk of the North Carolina Utilities Commission, 4325 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-4325, that the Surety Bond will not be renewed beyond the then current maturity date for an additional period, and

WHEREAS, failure to renew the Surety Bond shall, without the necessity of the Commission being required to hold a hearing or appoint an emergency operator, allow the Commission to convert the Surety Bond to cash and deposit said cash proceeds with the administrator of the Commission's bonding program, and

WHEREAS, said cash proceeds from the converted Surety Bond shall be used to post a cash bond on behalf of the Principal pursuant to North Carolina Utilities Commission Rules R7-37(a) and/or R10-24(e), and

WHEREAS, this bond shall become effective on the date executed by the Principal, and shall continue from year to year unless the obligations of the Principal under this bond are expressly released by the Commission in writing.

NOW THEREFORE, the Principal and Surety consent to the conditions of this Bond and agree to be bound by them.

This the 2nd day of January, 2024.

Red Bird Utility Operating Company, LLC

By: _____

RLI Insurance Company

(Surety)

By: Michelle Wilson

Michelle Wilson, Attorney-in-Fact

POWER OF ATTORNEY

RLI Insurance Company Contractors Bonding and Insurance Company

9025 N. Lindbergh Dr. Peoria, IL 61615
Phone: 800-645-2402

Know All Men by These Presents:

That this Power of Attorney is not valid or in effect unless attached to the bond which it authorizes executed, but may be detached by the approving officer if desired.

That **RLI Insurance Company** and/or **Contractors Bonding and Insurance Company**, each an Illinois corporation, (separately and together, the "Company") do hereby make, constitute and appoint:

Theresa A. Hunziker, Gregory L. Stanley, Michael T. Reedy, Linda McCarthy, Gerald M. Rogers, Harold F. James, Stephen J. Alabach, Joel Karsten, Karen Speckhals, Cindy Rohr, Terri Hunziker, Christopher J. O Hagan, Brandi L. Bullock, Don K. Ardolino, Kimberly Ann Connell, Trudy Whitrock, Michelle Wilson, jointly or severally

in the City of Saint Louis, State of Missouri its true and lawful Agent(s) and Attorney(s) in Fact, with full power and authority hereby conferred, to sign, execute, acknowledge and deliver for and on its behalf as Surety, in general, any and all bonds and undertakings in an amount not to exceed Twenty Five Million Dollars (\$25,000,000.00) for any single obligation.

The acknowledgment and execution of such bond by the said Attorney in Fact shall be as binding upon the Company as if such bond had been executed and acknowledged by the regularly elected officers of the Company.

RLI Insurance Company and/or **Contractors Bonding and Insurance Company**, as applicable, have each further certified that the following is a true and exact copy of a Resolution adopted by the Board of Directors of each such corporation, and is now in force, to-wit:

"All bonds, policies, undertakings, Powers of Attorney or other obligations of the corporation shall be executed in the corporate name of the Company by the President, Secretary, any Assistant Secretary, Treasurer, or any Vice President, or by such other officers as the Board of Directors may authorize. The President, any Vice President, Secretary, any Assistant Secretary, or the Treasurer may appoint Attorneys in Fact or Agents who shall have authority to issue bonds, policies or undertakings in the name of the Company. The corporate seal is not necessary for the validity of any bonds, policies, undertakings, Powers of Attorney or other obligations of the corporation. The signature of any such officer and the corporate seal may be printed by facsimile."

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the **RLI Insurance Company** and/or **Contractors Bonding and Insurance Company**, as applicable, have caused these presents to be executed by its respective Vice President with its corporate seal affixed this 19th day of February, 2021.



RLI Insurance Company
Contractors Bonding and Insurance Company
By: B. W. Davis
Barton W. Davis Vice President

State of Illinois }
County of Peoria } SS

CERTIFICATE

On this 19th day of February, 2021, before me, a Notary Public, personally appeared Barton W. Davis, who being by me duly sworn, acknowledged that he signed the above Power of Attorney as the aforesaid officer of the **RLI Insurance Company** and/or **Contractors Bonding and Insurance Company** and acknowledged said instrument to be the voluntary act and deed of said corporation.

I, the undersigned officer of **RLI Insurance Company** and/or **Contractors Bonding and Insurance Company**, do hereby certify that the attached Power of Attorney is in full force and effect and is irrevocable; and furthermore, that the Resolution of the Company as set forth in the Power of Attorney, is now in force. In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and the seal of the **RLI Insurance Company** and/or **Contractors Bonding and Insurance Company** this 2nd day of January, 2024.

By: Catherine D. Glover
Catherine D. Glover Notary Public

RLI Insurance Company
Contractors Bonding and Insurance Company
By: Jeffrey D. Fick
Jeffrey D. Fick Corporate Secretary



STATE OF Missouri

COUNTY OF St. Louis

On 1/2/2024, before me, a Notary Public in and for said County and State, residing therein, duly commissioned and sworn, personally appeared Michelle Wilson known to me to be Attorney-in-Fact of RLI Insurance Company the corporation described in and that executed the within and foregoing instrument, and known to me to be the person who executed the said instrument on behalf of the said corporation, and he/she duly acknowledged to me that such corporation executed the same.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have set my hand and affixed my seal, the day and year stated in this certificate above.

My Commission Expires: March 23, 2026

Trudy Whitrock

Trudy Whitrock, Notary Public

