

Control Number: 42860



Item Number: 38

Addendum StartPage: 0

## MCGINNIS LOCHRIDGE

2014 SEP 19 PM 3: 03

John L. Wilson jwilson@mcginnislaw.com (512) 495-6015 o (512) 505-6315 f

FUOLIGHT September 19, 2014 a bi ray

Judge Penny Wilkov State Office of Administrative Hearings P.O. Box 13025 Austin, Texas 78711-3025 Via email and fax

Re: SOAH Docket No. 473-14-5140; PUC Docket No. 42860; Application of Douglas Utility Company to Change Water and Sewer Rates in Harris Count - Corrected Status Report

Dear Judge Penny Wilkov:

Earlier today, Mr. Zeppa filed a Status Report; however, Equality Community Housing Corporation (Equality) believes the Status Report does not correctly reflect the information relayed to Mr. Zeppa by Equality. Accordingly, Equality files this its Corrected Status Report.

Mr. Zeppa provided:

The parties have been unable to reach a settlement since the failed mediation attempt. The consensus appears to be that, if retained by the PUC Commissioners, this case should proceed to hearing.

Equality does not agree with these statements made by Mr. Zeppa. The parties have reached a settlement agreement, the one that was signed on July 29, 2014, as part of the ordered mediation process (Settlement Agreement). The mediation was successful and the Settlement Agreement was executed. However, despite the successful mediation, Douglas Utility Company (Douglas) subsequently decided it no longer liked the Settlement Agreement and asked to withdraw from the settlement. None of the other parties have agreed to that request.

For obvious reasons, Equality, nor any other party than Douglas, has asked to proceed with any further settlement discussions. Equality has filed several motions and an interim appeal to Order No. 3 and does not agree that this case should proceed to hearing. In addition to the interim appeal to the Public Utility Commission (PUC) Commissioners, Equality has an outstanding summary disposition motion. All the issues in question in this proceeding were resolved by the terms of the Settlement Agreement, which reflects the agreement of the parties at the time it was executed. Douglas has admitted that it entered into the Settlement Agreement. No contested case hearing is warranted or needed.

My understanding from talking to Mr. Jim Rourke is that the Office of Public Utility Counsel has not decided at this point to intervene in the case and is not currently a party.

Judge Wilkov September 19, 2014 Page 2

In addition to the dates provided by Mr. Zeppa (October 6, 15, 20), Equality is also available for a prehearing conference on September 23, 24, 25 and October 8, 16, 17, 21, 22, 23 and 24.

Mr. Karl Wolff asked that Equality inform the ALJ that he can meet on any date selected by the ALJ as long as he has at least seven days notice prior to make arrangements to be off work.

Sincerely yours,

John L. Wilson

JLW

Cc: via email

Judge Penny Wilkov

Hollis Henley Karl E. Wolfe Mark Zeppa