

Control Number: 43093



Item Number: 1

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House Bill (HB) 1600 and Senate Bill (SB) 567 83rd Legislature, Regular Session, transferred the functions relating to the economic regulation of water and sewer utilities from the TCEQ to the PUC effective September 1, 2014.

Bryan W. Shaw, Ph.D., P.E., Chairman Toby Baker, Commissioner Zak Covar, Commissioner Richard A. Hyde, P.E., Executive Director 43093

TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Protecting Texas by Reducing and Preventing Pollution

July 21, 2014

Mr. Lambeth Townsend, Attorney Lloyd, Gosselink, Rochelle & Townsend, P.C. 816 Congress Avenue, Suite 1900 Austin, TX 78701

Re: TCEQ Docket No. 2014-0596-UCR; SOAH Docket No. 582-14-3859; Petition filed by Monarch Utilities I, LP from the Ratemaking Actions and Motion for Immediate Interim Water Rate Relief and Consolidation of the City of Blue Mound in Tarrant County, Application No. 37841-A

TCEQ Docket No. 2014-0596-UCR; SOAH Docket No. 582-14-3859; Petition filed by Monarch Utilities I, LP from the Ratemaking Actions and Motion for Immediate Interim Sewer Rate Relief and Consolidation of the City of Blue Mound in Tarrant County, Application No. 37844-A

CN: 602740706; RN: 102904596 (water) 102904620 (sewer)

Dear Mr. Townsend:

On January 29, 2014, Monarch Utilities I, L P (Monarch) filed petitions with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) appealing the ratemaking action of the City of Blue Mound. The petitions were assigned TCEQ Docket No. 2014-0596-UCR and Application Nos. 37841-A and 37844-A respectively. On May 13, 2014, TCEQ referred the petitions to the State Office of Administrative Hearings (SOAH).

Prior to the preliminary hearing Monarch and the City of Blue Mound entered into a settlement agreement. On June 24, 2014, Monarch filed a motion to dismiss its appeal and remand the matter to the TCEQ Executive Director (ED) for an order dismissing the appeal. At the preliminary hearing on June 25, 2014, jurisdiction was established. In response to Monarch's motion to dismiss and remand the matter, Administrative Law Judges, Elizabeth Drews and Kerrie Qualtrough, issued an order dismissing the case from SOAH's docket and remanding it to the ED on June 26, 2014.

Mr. Lambeth Townsend, Attorney Page 2 July 21, 2014

This letter is to notify you that this case has been administratively closed and that the Water Supply Division will take no further action in this matter. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Mr. Fred Bednarski at (512) 239-4758 or Ms. Heidi Graham at (512) 239-0844 or by mail using Mail Code 153 in the address listed below.

Sincerely,

Cari-Michel La Caille, Assistant Director

Water Supply Division

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

CML/FB/mmg

Mailing List for Monarch Utilities I, L.P. SOAH Docket No. 582-14-3859 TCEQ Docket No. 2011-2200-UCR Application No. 37841-A and 37844-A

Mr. Mark Zeppa, Attorney Law Office of Mark H. Zeppa, P.C. 4833 Spicewood Springs Rd., Ste. 202 Austin, Texas 78759-8436 markzeppa@austin.rr.com

Mr. Lambeth Townsend, Attorney Lloyd Gosselink Rochelle & Townsend, P.C. 816 Congress Ave., Suite 1900 Austin, Texas 78701 Itownsend@lglawfirm.com

Mr. George Freitag, Rate/Regulatory Manager Monarch Utilities I, LP 12535 Reed Road Sugar Land, Texas 77478

Mr. Jim Boyle Herrera & Boyle, PLLC 816 Congress Avenue, Suite 1250 Austin, Texas 78701 jboyle@hereraboylelaw.com

Mayor Alan Hooks City of Blue Mound PO Box 164129 Fort Worth, Texas 76161

Ms. Kathryn Sanchez, City Secretary City of Blue Mound PO Box 164129 Fort Worth, Texas 76161 Representing: Monarch Utilities I, L.P

Representing: City of Blue Mound

TCEQ Interoffice Memorandum

To:

Business Support Section

Thru:

Cari-Michel La Caille, Assistant Director

Water Supply Division

sa Fuentes, Work Leader Utilities Financial Review Team Water Supply Division

Vera Poe, P.E., Team Leader Utilities Technical Review Team Water Supply Division

From?

Elizabeth Flores **Business Support Section** Water Supply Division

Heidi Graham Utilities Financial Review Team

Fred Bednarski III, CGAP **Utilities Financial Review Team** Water Supply Division

Date:

July 21, 2014

Subject:

Monarch Utilities I, LP

CCN Number/Registration Nos.: 12983 and 20899 Application/Docket Numbers:

37841-A & 37744-A

SOAH Docket No. 582-14-3859 TCEO Docket No. 2014-0596-UCR

On September 3, 2013, Monarch Utilities I, L.P. (Monarch) filed a rate change application for a water and sewer rate/tariff change with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) to increase rates in areas over which the TCEQ has original jurisdiction. The application was assigned Application Nos. 37714-R and 37715-R. Monarch also filed applications in cities with original jurisdiction over Monarch's rates within their city limits, including the City of Blue Mound (City). On October 28, 2013, Monarch received notice from the City denying water and sewer rate change inside the City. In result Monarch filed petitions for ratemaking actions and motion for immediate interim water and sewer rate relief and consolidation of the City in Tarrant County with TCEQ that were received on January 29, 2014. These petitions were assigned application numbers 37841-A and 37744-A, and referred to the State Office of Administrative Hearing (SOAH) on May 13, 2014.

Prior to the preliminary hearing, Monarch and the City entered into a settlement agreement. On June 24, 2014 Monarch filed a motion with the State Office of Administrative Hearing (SOAH) to dismiss its appeal regarding the City and for remand to the TCEQ's Executive Director (ED). On June 25, 2014, the Honorable Kerrie Jo Qualtrough and Elizabeth Drews, administrative law judges (ALJ) of SOAH, conducted a preliminary hearing on in Austin, Texas where jurisdiction was proven and the following parties were designated: the Applicant, represented by Lambeth Townsend, Attorney, Mark Zeppa, Attorney, and Melissa Long, Attorney; the Executive Director (ED) of the TCEQ, represented by Christiaan Siano and Jessica Gray; the Office of Public Interest Counsel (OPIC) of the TCEQ, represented by Eli Martinez; and the City of Blue Mound, represented by Jim Boyle, Attorney. No parties opposed Monarch's motion and the case was dismissed from the SOAH's docket, was remanded to the ED, and signed for approval on 06/26/2014 in Order No. 1.

In order to complete the closure of these applications, please do the following:

- Forward the enclosed applications to central records,
- Forward the attached letter and enclosures to the applicant,
- Update the database to reflect the completion and closure of the application as of the date of the signed order.

Case Status: C