

Control Number: 43535



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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.

May 18 2004 11:44 (FAX)51 864 7744

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SOAH DOCKET NOS. 582-04-0253 & 582-04-1268 TCEQ DOCKET NOS. 2003-0737-UCR, 2003-0738-UCR, & 2003-1289-UCR MISSION

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APPLICATION OF THE CITY OF ROYSE CITY TO AMEND WATER CCN AND TO OBTAIN SEWER CCN IN COLLIN, ROCKWALL, AND HUNT COUNTIES

APPLICATION OF VERANDAH COMMUNITIES, LP TO OBTAIN SEWER CCN IN HUNT AND ROCKWALL COUNTIES

APPLICATION OF PARKER CREEK ESTATES, L.P. TO OBTAIN A WATER AND SEWER CCN IN ROCKWALL COUNTY, TEXAS, APPLICATION NOS. 34297-C AND 34301-C

BEFORE THE STATE OFFICE

OF

ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS

CITY OF ROYSE CITY'S OBJECTION TO THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE COMMISSION'S MOTION TO EXTEND PROCEDURAL DEADLINES

TO THE HONORABLE ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE:

COMES NOW the City of Royse City ("Royse City") and submits this, its Objection to the Executive Director of the Commission's Motion to Extend Procedural Deadlines in the above-styled matter, and would respectfully present the following:

BACKGROUND

The jurisdictional hearing in this proceeding was held on February 24, 2004. At that time a procedural schedule was ordered that included dates for written discovery, depositions, prefiled testimony, and the Hearing on the Merits. The procedural schedule originally adopted in Order No. 3 has been revised twice, most recently in Order No. 5 on May 11, 2004. On May 17, 2004, the Executive Director ("ED") of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (the

SOAH DOCKET NOS. 582-04-0253 & 582-04-1268 TCEQ DOCKET NOS. 2003-0737-UCR, 2003-0738-UCR, & 2003-1289-UCR

"Commission") filed a motion requesting that certain procedural deadlines again be extended and seeking to compel discovery from the City of Fate ("Fate"). For the reasons set forth below, Royse City respectfully requests that the Administrative Law Judge deny the ED's Motion to Extend Procedural Deadlines, leaving in place the procedural schedule set by Order No. 3 and revised by Order No. 5.

n. ARGUMENT AND AUTHORITIES

The entire basis for the ED's Motion to Extend Procedural Deadlines appears to be a discovery dispute between the ED and Fate. While the discovery dispute involves only those two parties, the ED's Motion to Extend Procedural Deadlines would unfairly and unnecessarily affect all parties in this consolidated docket.

The ED requests that the next three deadlines in the procedural schedule be revised as follows:

- Last day to propound written discovery requests on the parties: Changed from (1) May 17, 2004, to May 24, 2004.
- All discovery responses and supplementations due: Changed from June 10, 2004, (2) to June 17, 2004.
- All Applicants' prefiled direct testimony duc: Changed from June 17, 2004, to (3) June 24, 2004.

The ED does not address that the new proposed deadline of June 24, 2004, for Applicants' prefiled testimony would be just one week before the next procedural deadline of July 2, 2004. for All Protestants' prefiled testimony. Such additional compression of the procedural schedule SOAH DOCKET NOS. 582-04-0253 & 582-04-1268 TCEQ DOCKET NOS. 2003-0737-UCR, 2003-0738-UCR, & 2003-1289-UCR

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would result in undue hardship for Royse City as it continues to develop its case for this consolidated docket. Such a revision would allow Royse City only one week to review Applicants' testimonies and develop and file its prefiled testimony as a Protestant in this consolidated docket. In a complicated case such as this with multiple applicants and protestants, one week is not enough time to prepare adequate testimony.

While settlement negotiations continue among various parties, Royse City continues to believe that because of the rapid growth in the Royse City area it is important that the various CCN disputes be worked out as quickly as possible so that new residents in that area can be served. To that end, if any parties cannot reach settlement, Royse City believes that it is important that the hearing on the merits go forward as currently scheduled. Royse City believes that the current procedural schedule, specifically as it relates to prefiled testimony, has been compressed to the greatest extent possible while maintaining the current date for the hearing on the merits.

Discovery disputes should be resolved between the parties involved. Other parties to the proceeding that have complied with all discovery deadlines should not be penalized for the actions of other parties. For this reason, Royse City requests that the ED's Motion to Extend Procedural Deadlines be denied and the discovery dispute between the ED and Fate be dealt with as any other discovery dispute in an administrative proceeding.

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III. PRAYER

For the reasons stated herein, the City of Royse City respectfully requests that the Executive Director of the Commission's Motion to Extend Procedural Deadlines be denied. Royse City further prays for any additional relief to which it is justly entitled.

Respectfully submitted.

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ATTORNEYS FOR THE CITY OF ROYSE CITY, TEXAS

MAY=17-2004(MON) 23:43

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on this the 18th day of May, 2004, a true and correct copy of the foregoing document has been sent via sacsimile, first class mail, Federal Express overnight delivery, or hand delivery to the following:

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By:

ANGELAK MOORMAN

MR LEFIRM

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TELECOPIER COVER SHEET

May 18, 2004

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CLIENT NUMBER:

390-00

FROM:

Angela K. Moorman/Kerry Russell

NUMBER OF PAGES:

7 + cover page

COMMENTS:

RE: City of Royse City's Objection to the ED's Motion to Extend Procedural Deadlines

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Enmil: umoorman@rnrlawirm.com

May 18, 2004

VIA FACSIMILE

Ms. LaDonna Castaducla
Office of Chicf Clerk (MC-105)
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
P.O. Box 13087
Austin, Texas 78711-3087

Re: Objection to ED's Motion to Extend Procedural Deadlines, Application of the City of Royse City to Amend Water CCN and to Obtain Sewer CCN in Collin, Rockwall, and Hunt Counties, Consolidated Docket, SOAH Docket Nos. 582-04-0253 & 582-04-1268; TCEQ Docket Nos. 2003-0737-UCR, 2003-0738-UCR, & 2003-1289-UCR.

Dear Ms. Castañuela:

Enclosed is the City of Royse City's Objection to the Executive Director of the Commission's Motion to Extend Procedural Schedules to be filed in the above-referenced consolidated proceeding. If you have any questions, please telephone me or Mr. Kerry Russell at (512) 930-1317.

Sincerely,

Angela K. Moorman

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ENCLOSURES

cc: Service List

Mr. Connie Goodwin Mr. Kerry Russell