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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

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PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
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SOAH DOCKET NO. 582-03-1994
TCEQ DOCKET NO. 2002-1250-UCR

APPLICATION OF THE TOWN OF	§	BEFORE THE STATE OFFICE
PROSPER TO AMEND SEWER CERT-	§	
IFICATE OF CONVENIENCE AND	§	OF
NECESSITY NO. 20888 IN DENTON	§	
COUNTY, APPLICATION NO. 34004-C	§	ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS

ORDER NO. 20

**SETTING OUT SCHEDULE AND PROCEDURES;
AND
SCHEDULING PREHEARING CONFERENCE AND HEARING ON THE MERITS**

I. PARTIES

On December 16, 2003, a second preliminary hearing was held in this case, after the Town of Prosper amended the notice of its application. Mustang Special Utility District was added as a party to the case. The following are designated as parties:

PARTY	REPRESENTATIVES
City of Prosper	Kerry E. Russell
Executive Director (ED)	Lara K. Nehman and Sheridan L. Gilkerson
Public Interest Counsel (OPIC)	Not Represented
Fish Trap Properties LLP	Tom Leonard and Sal Levatino
Glenbrook Water Supply	Tom Leonard and Sal Levatino
Mustang Special Utility District	Skip Newsom

II. SCHEDULE

The parties agreed on the following schedule for prehearing activities and the hearing on the merits of the application, which schedule shall govern this proceeding:

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DEADLINE/DATE	ACTIVITY
December 17, 2003	Discovery Begins
March 5, 2004	Written Discovery Ends. All requests must be received 20 days prior to this date so that responses are due on or before the date
March 19, 2004	Applicant's Supplemental Testimony Due
April 8, 2004	Mustang Special Utility District Testimony Due
May 4, 2004	Executive Director's Supplemental Testimony Due
May 14, 2004	Depositions End
May 17, 2004	Written Objections To All Testimony Due
May 24, 2004	Responses To Written Objections To All Testimony Due
May 27, 2004, at 10:00 a.m.	Preliminary Conference At 10:00 a.m. To Address Matters Necessary to Consider Before Hearing, Including Objections To Testimony
June 4, 7, 8, and 9, 2004	Hearing On The Merits To Begin on June 4. Parties may request cancellation of first day if three days will suffice.

III. HEARING AND PREHEARING DATES AND LOCATION

The hearing on the merits will convene at 9:00 a.m., June 4, 2004, at the State Office of Administrative Hearings (SOAH), 4th Floor, William P. Clements Building, 300 West 15th Street, Austin, Texas. Unless the parties are notified otherwise, the hearing will continue on June 7, 2004, and continue from day to day thereafter until it is concluded. Given the complexity and anticipated length, appearing at the hearing on the merits by telephone is not practical and will not be allowed.

IV. PROCEDURAL RULES

Except as otherwise provided herein, this case shall be conducted in accordance with the procedural rules of the TCEQ and SOAH. 30 TAC Chapter 80 and 1 TAC Chapter 155. In the event of conflict, the TCEQ's rules apply. 1 TAC § 155.1(b).

V. DISCOVERY

Discovery shall be conducted according to Texas Rules of Civil Procedure (TRCP), as supplemented by SOAH's discovery rules, 1 TAC § 155.31. The TRCP shall be interpreted consistently with chapter 80 of the TCEQ's rules, the Texas Water Code, the Texas Health and Safety Code, and the APA. 30 TAC § 80.151. Pursuant to SOAH Procedural Rule § 155.23(3), discovery documents shall be served on the other parties but shall not be filed with the ALJ unless such materials are the subject of a discovery dispute and only those portions relevant to the dispute shall be attached to any pertinent motion.

The parties are expected to attempt to resolve discovery disputes; however, significant disputes which cannot be resolved should be brought to the ALJ's attention in a motion to compel. Any request for relief should include a copy of any discovery correspondence necessary for an informed ruling on the dispute.

The total **additional** time (on and after December 17, 2003) for the Applicant, the Protestants as a group, and the ED for oral depositions may not exceed 50 hours each and the total number of written interrogatories that any party may serve on any other party may not exceed 25. If one side designates more than two experts, the opposing side may have an additional six hours of total deposition time for each additional expert designated. Additionally, parties may obtain disclosure

of information and material as provided in TRCP 194. The parties are encouraged to cooperate and reach agreements regarding discovery matters. However, in the absence of a filed written agreement, responses to discovery requests are due on the deadline date.

If a motion to compel is filed, the party asserting a privilege from discovery shall produce the documents in question to the ALJ for an in camera inspection within three (3) working days after receiving the motion under the procedures set out at 1 TAC § 155.23(2). In camera documents will be returned only to the party that provided them regardless of the ruling. If the ruling is against the producing party, production shall follow on either the 20th working day or if this date has passed, then within two (2) working days. To the extent discovery requests involve confidential materials having a limited privilege (e.g., TRE 507 trade secrets), the parties should file a motion seeking a protective order to facilitate discovery. Additionally, if it would facilitate orderly and efficient discovery, any party, after conferring with all other parties, may seek the issuance of a general protective order.

Responses to written discovery requests shall identify the preparer(s) and witness sponsor(s) of that response.

VI. PLEADINGS

Unless specified or agreed otherwise, to be considered filed on a particular day, filings must be received by the ALJ and the parties by 5:30 p.m. on that date. When something is due by a certain date or time, it is not sufficient to merely mail the filing on that day. Receipt is required.

Unless one party seeks additional oral argument and the motion is granted, the ALJ will rule on motions based on the written pleadings. If oral argument is granted, it shall be conducted by telephone conference, unless the ALJ specifies otherwise. The party requesting oral argument shall

make arrangements for the telephone conference in a manner so as not to delay a ruling on the motion.¹

Motions or other correspondence may be FAXED if the original is sent by mail. Filings should be sent to all parties contemporaneously (*i.e.*, that same day) with any filing to the ALJ. If over 20 pages long, it may be sent by express mail for delivery on the next business day. This is particularly important when deadlines for responses are involved since it will be assumed that all parties received a filing the same day the ALJ did and their time is running for responses.

If a deadline is approaching and a party cannot get a fax through for reasons beyond its control [*e.g.* both SOAH fax numbers (Natural Resources 512/936-0730 and SOAH Main Docket 512/475-4994) have been busy since 4:00 p.m.], call and tell the ALJ's assistant, Ms. Tracy Lewis, 512/ 475-4693, or the SOAH Docket Division (512/475-3445) of the problem.

Parties shall use the ALJ's service list and this list should be attached to all filings.

VII. PREFILED EVIDENCE

All parties shall prefile their direct-case evidence in writing. One copy shall be served on the representative of every other party, and one copy shall be filed with the judge. Rebuttal evidence and documents used for impeachment or rebuttal purposes need not be prefiled. The prefiled evidence should include all testimony and other evidence necessary to support a party's direct case.

Evidence that is not prefiled may not be introduced as part of a party's direct case absent a showing of good cause. Good cause will be considered on a case-by-case basis upon a showing of need, the reasonableness of not having anticipated its use, and that the other parties will not be

¹This paragraph does not apply to matters considered at preliminary conferences.

unduly prejudiced by its late entry into the record. Therefore, evidence even considered for use in a direct case should be prefiled, although a party later may choose not to introduce every item it prefiles.

The Applicant is hereby warned against trying to obtain a tactical advantage by saving evidence for rebuttal that is more reasonably part of a direct case. Such evidence will not be admitted as "rebuttal" absent a showing of good cause, particularly that the need for such "rebuttal" evidence could not have been reasonably anticipated and prefiled with the direct case.

Prefiled testimony should be written as if the questions were asked by the party's lawyer and answered by the witness. The witness must be called to testify and adopt the prefiled testimony under oath, the testimony must be offered as an exhibit, and the witness must be passed for cross-examination by the other parties. When no party wishes to cross-examine a witness, the parties should agree to the admission of the witness' testimony so that the witness is not required to needlessly attend the hearing.

Since the purpose of prefilings evidence is to shorten the length and minimize the cost of the hearing, the Judge will discourage non-substantive evidentiary objections to prefiled evidence that seem to have little purpose other than lengthening the hearing and leaving evidentiary gaps, *e.g.* form-of-the-question and leading-the-witness objections. Counsel to all parties are expected to confer and reach agreements on ways to minimize all evidentiary objections.

An order of witnesses shall be prefiled with the testimony. If there is a necessity to deviate from the established order, this should be raised with the ALJ and the other parties as soon as it becomes known.

Every page of every prefiled document shall be appropriately numbered to allow easy identification and reference.

On the day they will be offered, two copies of every exhibit, which will be referred to as the "Record Set" and the "Appeal Set," shall be provided to the court reporter before the hearing starts, so that the court reporter can mark them and not delay the hearing.

VIII. OPEN GOVERNMENT

The Judge intends to strictly limit admission of evidence under seal and closing of the hearing on the merits to the public. Texas law frowns on secret governmental proceedings or decisions of any kind.² The parties shall negotiate prior to the hearing to agree on redacted versions of the confidential documents that can be admitted or to stipulate to facts to which they pertain. The Judge is confident that the parties can reach such agreements. Gamesmanship on this point will not be tolerated. If the parties are legitimately unable to reach an agreement, the Judge will resolve the dispute at the hearing in a session closed to the public.

IX. TRANSCRIPT

For any proceeding in a docket set to last longer than one day, a court reporter is generally required. 1 TAC § 155.43(b). Upon his or her own motion, the judge may request a verbatim record and an original and two copies of a transcript of a proceeding. 30 TAC § 80.23 (b)(4).

In that the parties estimate that the hearing on the merits will take more than one day, a court reporter will be needed at the hearing on the merits to transcribe the hearing and to deliver the original and one copy of that transcript to the ALJ and one copy to the ED. The Applicant shall work with the TCEQ Chief Clerk's Office to ensure that a court reporter attends the hearing. The Applicant shall pay the cost of that recording and transcription subject to an allocation of those costs among all the parties at the end of the case. 30 TAC § 80.23.

² See TEX. GOV'T CODE ANN. § 551.001 *et seq.* and § 552.001 *et seq.*

X. ORDER OF HEARING

Unless otherwise ordered, the parties will present their cases in the following order: Applicant, Fish Trap Properties LLP, Glenbrook Water Supply, Mustang Special Utility District, OPIC, and ED. The Applicant will have the opportunity to introduce rebuttal evidence, which it need not prefile. The order of cross-examination will be the same as direct.

Issued this 17th day of December, 2003.

STATE OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS



JAMES W. NORMAN
Administrative Law Judge

STATE OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS

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SOAH DOCKET NO.: 582-03-1994

TCEQ DOCKET NO.: 2002-1250-UCR

REGARDING: ORDER NO. 20

FROM: JUDGE JAMES W. NORMAN

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Skip Newsom(Mustang Utility District)	477-2860

NOTE: IF ALL PAGES ARE NOT RECEIVED, PLEASE CONTACT TRACY-LYNNE LEWIS at 475-4993.

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