

Control Number: 43922



Item Number: 27

Addendum StartPage: 0

House Bill (HB) 1600 and Senate Bill (SB) 567 83<sup>rd</sup> 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., *Chairman* Buddy Garcia, *Commissioner* Carlos Rubinstein, *Commissioner* 



€ CCN 18087 50

Blas J. Coy, Jr., Public Interest Counsel

2014 DEC -9 AM 9: 54

TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENWRONMENTAL QUALITY

Protecting Texts by Reducing and Preventing Pollution

April 20, 2010

The Honorable Richard R. Wilfong Administrative Law Judge State Office of Administrative Hearings 300 West Fifteenth Street, Suite 502 Austin, Texas 78701 CHIEF CLERKS OFFICE

ON FORMALISSION ON FORMALISSION OUALLY

Re: SOAH Docket No. 582-09-4288; TCEQ Docket No. 2009-0505-UCR Application of Double Diamond Utilities Company, Inc. to change water rate tariff for service in Hill, Palo Pinto, and Johnson Counties, Before the State Office of Administrative Hearings.

Dear Judge Wilfong:

This letter is to inform you that I am now the attorney of record for the Office of Public Interest Counsel (OPIC) in the above-referenced matter. By copy of this letter, I am notifying all parties of the same.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. Should you have any questions, please call me at (512) 239-3974.

Sincerely,

Eli Martinez

Assistant Public Interest Counsel

cc: Service List

RECEIVED

JAN 1 7 2011

CENTRAL FILEROOM

REPLY To: Public Interest Counsel, MC 103 P.O. Box 13087 Austin, Texas 78711-3087 512-239-6363

# MAILING LIST DOUBLE DIAMOND UTILITIES COMPANY, INC. SOAH DOCKET NO. 582-09-4288 TCEQ DOCKET NO. 2009-0505-UCR

The Honorable Richard Wilfong Administrative Law Judge State Office of Administrative Hearings P.O. Box 13025 Austin, Texas 78711-3025 Tel:512/475-4993 Fax: 512/475-4994

Shari Heino
Mathews & Freeland, LLP
327 Congress Avenue, Suite 300
Austin, Texas 78701
Tel: 512/404-7800 Fax: 512/703-2785
Representing: White Bluff Subdivision
Ratepayers

John J. Carlton Armbrust & Brown, LLP Attorneys and Counselors 100 Congress Avenue, Suite 1300 Austin, Texas 78701-2744 Tel: 512/435-2300 Fax: 512/435-2360 Double Diamond Utilities Co.

Philip Day
90 Glen Abbey Dr. S.
Graford, Texas 76449
Tel: 940/779-9296
Representing: The Cliffs Utility Committee

Jack D. McCartney
John T. Bell
6300 Annahill St.
Cleburne, Texas 76033
Tel: 817/645-4392
Representing: The Retreat Homeowners Group

Stefanie Skogan, Staff Attorney TCEQ Environmental Law Division MC 173 P.O. Box 13087 Austin, TX 78711-3087 Tel: 512/239-0575 Fax: 512/239-0606

Docket Clerk TCEQ Office of Chief Clerk MC 105 P.O. Box 13087 Austin, TX 78711-3087 Tel:512/239-3300 Fax: 512/239-3311

2010 APR 20 PM 4: 00

TEXAS COMMISSION ON E TYRONWENTAL QUALITY

### MATHEWS & FREELAND, L.L.P.

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

JIM MATHEWS
JOE FREELAND

P.O. Box 1568 Austin, Texas 78767-1568

(512) 404-7800 FAX: (512) 703-2785

March 29, 2010

VIA HAND DELIVERY Richard Wilfong Administrative Law Judge State Office of Administrative Hearings 300 W. 15<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 502 Austin, TX 78701

Re:

SOAH Docket No. 582-09-4288; TCEQ Docket No. 2009-0505-UCR; Application of Double Utilities Company, Inc. to Change Water Rate Tariff for Service in Hill, Palo Pinto, and Johnson Counties

Dear Judge Wilfong:

Pursuant to Order No. 4, enclosed for filing in the above referenced case are the Prefiled Testimony and Exhibits of Nelisa Heddin on behalf of the White Bluff Subdivision Ratepayers.

Sincerely,

**MATHEWS & FREELAND** 

Shari Heino

#### **Enclosures**

cc: TCEQ Chief Clerk

John Carlton Stefannie Skogen James B. Murphy Phillip Day

Jack D. McCartney & John T. Bell

5124352360

T-612 P.02/22 F-387

#### ARMBRUST & BROWN, L.L.P.

ATTORNEYS AND COUNSELORS

100 CONGRESS AVENUE, SUITE 1300 AUSTIN, TEXAS 78701-2744 512-435-2300

> FACSIMILE 512-435-2380 FACSIMILE 512-435-2399

JOHN J. CARLTON (512) 435-2308 jcarlson@abussun.com

December 14, 2009

VIA EMAIL: sskogen@tceq.state\_tx\_us & VIA FIRST CLASS MAIL

Stefanie Skogen Staff Attorney MC-173 Texas Commission on Environmental Quality Environmental Law Division P.O. Box 13087 Austin, Texas 78711-3087

> SOAH Docket No. 582-09-4288; TCEQ Docket No. 2009-0505-UCR; Application of Re Double Utilities Company, Inc. to Change Water Rate Tariff for Service in Hill, Palo Pinto, and Johnson Counties

Dear Stefanie

Enclosed please find Double Diamond Utilities, Co.'s Objections and Responses to the Executive Director's Second Interrogatories, Requests for Production, and Requests for Admissions.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

ARMBRUST & BROWN

John J. Carlton

Attorney for Double Diamond Utilities, Co.

Enclosure

TCEQ Chief Clerk (via fax: 512.239.3311) cc:

Shari Heino (via email & first class mail)

James B. Mur phy (via email & first class mail)

Phillip Dav: (via email & first class mail)

Jack D. McCartney & John T. Bell (via email & first class mail)

RECEIVED JAN 17 2011

CENTRALFILEROOM

#### SOAH DOCKET NO. 582-09-4288 TCEQ DOCKET NO. 2009-0505-UCR

APPLICATION OF DOUBLE § BEFORE THE STATE OFFICE DIAMOND UTILITIES COMPANY, § INC. TO CHANGE WATER RATE § OF TARIFF FOR SERVICE IN HILL, § PALO PINTO, AND JOHNSON § COUNTIES § ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS

## DOUBLE DIAMOND UTILITIES COMPANY, INC.'S OBJECTIONS AND RESPONSES TO THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S SECOND INTERROGATORIES, REQUESTS FOR ADMISSIONS AND REQUESTS FOR PRODUCTION

TO: The Executive Director, by and through its attorney of record, Stefanie Skogen, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, Texas 78711

COMES NOW, Double Diamond Utilities Co. ("DDU"), Applicant herein, and files this its response to the Executive Director's ("ED") Second Interrogatories, Requests for Admissions, and Requests for Production.

}

Respectfully submitted

JOHN J. CARLTON
State Bar No. 03817600

ÁRMBRUST & BROWN, L.L.P.

100 Congress Avenue, Suite 1300

Austin, Texas 78701-2744

(512) 435-2300 — Telephone

(512) 436-2360 - Telecopy

ATTORNEY FOR DOUBLE DIAMOND UTILITIES COMPANY, INC.

DEC 15 MM 8:59

From-ARMBRUST OWN, LLP 5124352360

T-612 P.04/22 F-387

#### CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing was delivered via facsimile, via first class mail or by hand delivery on the 14th day of December, 2009 to the following:

Texas Commission On Environmental Quality Docket Clerk Office Of The Chief Clerk Texas Commission On Environmental Quality P.O. Box 13087

Austin, Texas 78711 Fax: (512) 239-3311

Stefanie Skogen Staff Attorney, MC 173 Environmental Law Division Texas Commission on Environmental Quality P.O. Box 13087 Austin, Texas 78711

Office of Public Interest Counsel James Murphy Texas Commission on Environmental Quality Office of Public Interest Counsel, MC-103 P.O. Box 13087 Austin, Texas 78711 Fax: (512) 239-6377

The Cliffs Utility Committee Phillip Day Retired 90 Glen Abbey Dr. S. Graford, Texas 76449

White Bluff Subdivision Ratepayers Shari Heino Matthews & Freeland, L.L.P.

327 Congress Ave., Suite 300 Austin, Texas 78701

Fax: (512) 703-2785

Fax: (512) 239-0606

The Retreat Homeowners Grow Jack D. McCartney and John T. Bell, Retired 6300 Annanhill St. Cleburne, Texas 76033

JOHN/X CARLTON

#### **OBJECTIONS TO INSTRUCTIONS AND DEFINITIONS**

- 1. DDU objects to the ED's definitions and instructions to the extent that they purport to place duties and requirements on DDU that exceed those required by the Texas Rules of Civil Procedure in violation of Rule 192.3.
- 2. DDU objects to the time and place of production as specified by ED. DDU will produce non-objectionable, non-privileged documents for inspection and copying at a mutually agreed upon time at the offices of Armbrust & Brown, L.L.P., 100 Congress Avenue, Suite 1300, Austin, Texas 78701.
- 3. DDU objects to the ED's entire definition of "DDU" on the grounds that it is overly broad and exceeds the permissible scope of discovery allowed by the Texas Rules of Civil Procedure in violation of Rule 192.3. ED has defined "DDU" to include attorneys and representatives of DDU, which in the context of the requests calls for information that is shielded from discovery under the work product, attorney work product or attorney-client communication privileges. To the extent privileged documents are requested, DDU asserts its privileges and notifies ED that such privileged documents and responses, if any, will be withheld.

Received:

#### INTERROGATORIES

Interrogatory No. 1: Please provide the number of sewer connections at The Cliffs, The Retreat, and White Bluff at the end of the test year, listed individually by system.

Response: The Cliffs - 182; The Retreat - 46; White Bluff - 490

ROWN, LLP

Interrogatory No. 2: For the employees listed in your response to Interrogatory No. 4 in the Executive Director's (ED's) first round of discovery questions to you, please indicate the date of hire and date of termination for each employee and the type of license held by any licensed operators on the employee list, including whether the license is for water, sewer, or both.

#### Response:

Employee	Date of Hire	Date of Termination	License
Terry Hafer	10/9/2006	5/1/2007	
Harry Shearhouse	5/29/2007	11/3/2008	Water - A, Water - CSI, Water - BPAT, Wastewater - Class III
Pat Gibson	2/9/1999	Currently Employed	
Monica Leon	6/28/2004	5/7/2008	
Donald Lewis	11/7/2001	Currently Employed	Surface Water – C, Wastewater Treatment – Class C
Robert Bailey	8/7/2006	2/12/2007	
Timothy Leggett	9/13/2006	4/13/2007	
Donald Harris	4/23/2007	6/25/2007	
Michael Russell	5/7/2007	5/9/2008	
Raymond Hyden	6/26/2007	5/9/2008	
James Lyles	8/18/2006	8/31/2007	
John Henderson	8/13/2007	10/29/2007	

Received:

Employee	Date of Hire	Date of Termination	License
Lane Westbrooks	10/12/2007	Currently Employed	Ground Water – C, Wastewater Treatment – Class D
Jack Gore	11/5/2007	11/19/2007	
John Holzmeir	12/27/2007	1/11/2008	
Richard Zint	2/14/2002	Currently Employed	Ground Water – C, Wastewater Treatment – Class C
Kim Harston	3/22/2005	Currently Employed	
Benjamin Austin	8/30/2006	5/30/2008	
Cody Clinard	9/25/2006	4/8/2009	
Geoffrey Young	7/10/2007	10/11/2007	

Interrogatory No. 3: For the employees listed in your response to Interrogatory No. 4 in the ED's first round of discovery questions to you that worked for the Rock Creek water and/or sewer systems, please indicate the names of the employees, the number of hours worked for each of those systems, the applicable accounting classifications, and the amount paid to those employees for their work at those systems that was included in the cost of service listed in your application.

#### Response:

Employee	Number of Hours Worked	Accounting Classification	Amount Paid
Terry Hafer	0	N/A	0
Harry Shearhouse	0	N/A	0
Pat Gibson	0	N/A	0
Monica Leon	0	N/A	0
Donald Lowis	0	N/A	0

Employee	Number of Hours Worked	Accounting Classification	Amount Paid
Robert Bailey	0	N/A	0
Timothy Leggett	0	N/A	0
Donald Harris	0	N/A	0
Michael Russell	0	N/A	0
Raymond Hyden	0	N/A	0
James Lyles	0	N/A	0
John Henderson	0	N/A	0
Lane Westbrooks	0	N/A	0
Jack Gore	0	N/A	0
John Holzmeir	0	N/A	0
Richard Zint	0	N/A	0
Kim Harston	0	N/A	0
Benjamin Austin	0	N/A	0
Cody Clinard	0	N/A	0
Geoffrey Young	0	N/A	0

Interrogatory No. 4: As a follow-up to Interrogatory No. 5 in the ED's first round of discovery questions to you, please explain what "DDC" stands for and exactly what work Terry Hafer and James Lyle performed for "DDC 3210-Construction" and "DDC-Utilities."

**Response**: "DDC" stands for Double Diamond Construction. Terry Hafer and James Lyle performed no work for "DDC 3210-Construction" and performed all their work for "DDC-Utilities."

<u>Interrogatory No. 5:</u> Please provide a detailed calculation on how you arrived at Double Diamond-Delaware Inc.'s (DDD's) capital structure of 50.47% debt and 49.52% equity in your response to Interrogatory No. 6 in the ED's first round of discovery questions to you.

#### Response:

Double Diamond Delaware Debt		
Notes Payable	113,897,749	
Notes Payable to Affiliates	100,000	
Total Debt	113,997,749	50.47%
Total Shareholders Equity	111,852,358	49.53%
Total Debt and Equity	225,850,107	100.00%

Interrogatory No. 6: Please explain why you pay an interest rate of 10% for advances while other DDD affiliates, primarily property owners' associations (POA), pay 0% interest for advances, as stated in Attachment 8 of your application, page 17, under the heading "Note H - Related-Party Transactions."

Response: DDD does not generally charge interest on intercompany transfers between Double Diamond-Delaware, Inc., and subsidiaries. The interest income and expense would cancel each other out when the subsidiaries are consolidated into Double Diamond-Delaware. Consolidation rules generally state that intercompany income and expense should be eliminated when consolidating subsidiaries into a parent company.

POA's are not "affiliates" as defined by the Texas Water Code, §13.002(2) and are considered "associated non-profit corporations" by DDD, as listed in Bates documents numbered 00044-00047 previously produced. Interest has not been charged to the POA's for the following reasons.

- 1. The POA's are associated by common control and not by ownership.
- 2. The POA's are non-profit corporations.
- 3. Double Diamond is not charging interest to the POA's for the reasons stated in 1 and 2. Additionally, if interest was charged to the POA's this would be become an added expense that the POA dues would have to cover. Depending on the interest amount POA dues would probably have to be raised to cover this added expense.

Double Diamond Utilities Co. pays interest on amounts paid by Double Diamond Deleware and its other subsidiaries for capital improvements and operating losses.

Received:

Interrogatory No. 7: Please list the names of all DDD affiliates that pay less than 10% interest on loans and/or advances from DDD or other DDD affiliates, as well as the terms and amounts of those loans and/or advances.

Response: There are no such loans or advances, other than those to DDU.

Interrogatory No. 8: As a follow-up to your response to Interrogatory No. 10 in the ED's first round of discovery questions to you, please explain how you calculated or allocated the expenses reported in your TCEQ Water and Wastewater Utilities Annual Report (AR) for 2007 between the water and sewer systems if you do not maintain a separate chart of accounts for the water and sewer systems. If you allocated the water and sewer expenses in your 2007 AR, please provide the allocation percentage(s).

Response: The 2007 AR report was prepared by Harry Shearouse, who was the Utilities Director at that time. His numbers were taken from the financials ending December 30, 2007. All categories are based on a 55/45 split between water and sewer with the exception of the following, which were based on actuals:

Repairs/Maintenance/Supplies Miscellaneous Regulatory Expenses

In the process of checking the numbers, there is one that DDU found to be in error. It appears that the total for Utilities (electricity) was transposed. The correct number should be \$160,577.

#### REQUESTS FOR PRODUCTION

Please provide documentation to support your response to Request for Production No. 1: Interrogatory No. 5.

Response: See Page 3, Consolidated Financial Statements and Report of Independent Certified Public Accountants, Double Diamond-Delaware, Inc. and Subsidiaries, December 30, 2007 and December 31, 2006, as contained in Attachment 8 of the application and produced as documents Bates documents pages 323-343.

Please provide documentation to support your response to Request for Production No. 2: Interrogatory No. 7.

Response: Subject to and without waiving the foregoing objections, DDU has not identified any responsive documents. Subject to the Texas Rules of Civil Procedure, DDU reserves the right to supplement its response.

Please provide your AR for 2007. Request for Production No. 3:

Response: See attached copy.

Please provide the calculations for each expense listed in Request for Production No. 4: your AR for 2007.

Response: Subject to and without waiving the foregoing objections, DDU has not identified any responsive documents. Subject to the Texas Rules of Civil Procedure, DDU reserves the right to supplement its response.

Please provide the general ledger and/or statement of Request for Production No. 5: operations used to calculate each expense listed in your AR for 2007. If any particular expense in the general ledger and/or statement of operations does not match the expense amount for the same item in the 2007 AR, please provide a detailed breakdown on how you arrived at each of those AR expenses.

Response: DDU objects to this request because it seeks production of a document not already in existence. Subject to and without waiving the foregoing objections and to the extent not already produced, DDU will make responsive non-privileged documents relating to the general ledger and/or statement of operations used to calculate each expense listed in your AR for 2007, to the extent they exist and are in the custody or control of DDU, if any, available for inspection and copying at a mutually convenient date and time at the office of counsel for DDU.

#### REQUESTS FOR ADMISSION

Request for Admissions No. 1: Admit that DDU's advances are included in the statements made in "Note H - Related-Party Transactions," found on Attachment 8, page 17 in the application.

Response: Deny

Request for Admissions No. 2: Admit that "Note H - Related-Party Transactions," found on Attachment 8, page 17 in the application indicates that advances to DDD affiliates, primarily POAs, do not bear interest.

Response: Can neither Admit nor Deny. Admit to the extent that "Note H - Related-Party Transactions," found on Attachment 8, page 17 states "The advances to affiliates (primarily property owners' associations) do not bear interest..." Deny to the extent that the property owners' associations are considered to be "affiliates" as defined by Texas Water Code 13.002(2).

Request for Admissions No. 3: Admit that the interest amounts on your loans and advances from DDD are included in the calculation of the revenue requirement in your application.

Response: Admit

Request for Admissions No. 4: Admit that the interest amounts on your loans and advances from DDD are passed on to your customers through your water and sewer rates.

Response: Can neither Admit nor Deny. Admit to the extent that TCEQ approves rates that include loans and advances from DDD in the revenue requirement. Deny to the extent that TCEQ does not.

Request for Admissions No. 5: Admit that Randy Gracy signed your AR for 2007.

Response: Admit

Request for Admissions No. 6: Admit that the notes payable listed in DDD's audited financial statement on pages 11-17 of Attachment 8 to your application bear less than 10% interest.

Response: Admit

Request for Admissions No. 7: Admit that your capital structure of 50.47% debt and 49.52% equity is hypothetical.

Response: Can neither Admit nor Deny. Admit to the extent that DDU's capital structure is assumed to be the same as DDD's capital structure, which is calculated as 50.47% debt and 49.52% equity. Deny to the extent that DDU's capital structure is not assumed to be the same capital structure calculated for DDD.

Received:

Dec 14 2009 05:32pm

Dec-14-09 05:35pm Fr

From-ARMBRUS

POWN, LLP

512435236

T-612 P 13/22 F-387

Request for Admissions No. 8: Admit that the interest rate of 10% charged by DDD on its loans and advances to you is higher than the interest rates for the notes payable listed on pages 11-17 of DDD's audited financial statement, which is Attachment 8 to your application.

Response: Admit

Request for Admissions No. 9: Admit that you separated your expenses between your water and sewer systems in your AR for 2007.

Response: Admit

Request for Admissions No. 10: Admit that your 2007 annual operating revenues for water exceeded \$150,000 but did not exceed \$750,000, which makes you a Class B public water utility under title 30, section 291.72 of the Texas Administrative Code.

Response: Admit

Request for Admissions No. 11: Admit that each of your water systems has its own licensed operator.

Response: Admit

Request for Admissions No. 12: Admit that you did not acquire the water systems at The Cliffs, The Retreat, and White Bluff from another retail public utility.

Response: Admit

Request for Admission No. 13: Admit that on Attachment 10 to your application, if a line item indicates that it is water or sewer related or is directly identified as a water or sewer expense, you allocated 100% of that expense to the water or sewer systems.

Response: Admit

Request for Admission No. 14: Admit that on Attachment 10 to your application, if a line item is not identified specifically as a water or sewer expense, you used an allocation factor to allocate that line item expense between the water and sewer systems.

Response: Admit

Request for Admission No. 15: Admit that when creating Attachment 10 to your application, you did not verify each line item amount with the original invoice or other original source document before allocating the amount between the water and sewer systems.

Response: Admit

Request for Admission No. 16: Admit you listed total expenses in the amount of \$ 1,022,338 in your application, which is the same total expenses amount listed on page 2 of Attachment 10 to your application.

Response: Admit

5124352360

VERIFICATION

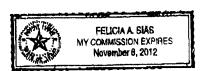
THE STATE OF TEXAS

§

COUNTY OF DALLAS

§

BEFORE ME, the undersigned authority, on this day personally appeared Landu Gracy, who being by me duly sworn, on oath stated that he is an authorized representative of Double Diamond Utilities, Co.; that he has read the above and foregoing Objections and Responses to the Executive Director's Second Interrogatories, Requests for Admissions and Requests for Production and answers to the Interrogatories are true and correct and based upon personal knowledge and/or information obtained from other persons who are representatives of Double Diamond Utilities Co.



DOUBLE DIAMOND UTILITIES CO.

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO BEFORE ME on the 4th / day of December 2009, to certify which, witness my hand and official scal.

Felicia A. Sias



### WATER AND WASTEWATER UTILITIES

### **ANNUAL REPORT**

of

Double Diamond Unities Co.

Exact Legal Name of Utility/Respondent

WATER CCN 12087 SEWER CCN 20705

Certificate of Convenience and Necessity (CCN) No.

Submitted to the

State of Texas



Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

for the

Calendar Year Ended December 31, 2007

TCEQ-20052 (Rev.1/2008) CCN No. 12087 20105

1 of 7

OWN, LLP

512435236

T-612 P.16/22 F-387

Section 1: Utility Information

Utility Name DOUBLE DIAMOND UTILITIES CO.
Address 10100 N. CENTRAL EXPRESSIMAY, SoiTE 6000
DAUAS, TX 75231
Please check this box if your Official Address, which is noted on the enclosed letter, has changed.
Telephone Number 214-706-9801 Fax Number 214-706-7829
E-mail Address hshearouse @ddresorts. com on rgracy @ ddresorts co
Contact Person RANDY GRACY Title PRESIDENT
Check the business ownership entity of the utility as filed with the Internal Revenue Service
Individual Partnership Corporation NonProfit Association

Section 2: Utility Background

	<del> </del>	~
Number of PWSs	3	
PWS ID No.	WHITE BLUFF UTILITY	1090073
PWS ID No.	THE CLIPPS UPLITIES -	1820061
	(If the Utility has more PWS ID	
	Nos., please indicate in Section 10)	Ì
Number of Waster	water Systems 4	
uries - wood	13786-002 (13786-002)	
ITIES - MQ DOOZ	789000 (02789-000)	
'ennit		
1		
,	PWS ID No. PWS ID No.  Number of Waster  LITES - WROOZ	PWS ID No. WHITE BLUFF UTILITY PWS ID No. THE CLIFF'S UTILITY (If the Utility has more PWS ID Nos., please indicate in Section 10)  Number of Wastewater Systems  UTIES - WQOOI3786 ooz (13786-002)  UTIES - WQOOI3786 ooz (13786-002)  UTIES - WQOOI3786000 (02789-000)

TCEQ-20052 (Rev.1/2008) CCN No. 12-087/20105

2 of 7

#### Section 3: Revenues

	Water	Wastewater	Total
	<u> </u>		Water + Westewater
OPERATING REVENUES:			
Unlity Service/Sales	609 150	233679	842829
Fees(Tap, Reconnection, etc.)	21810	121695	143505
OTHER REVENUES:			
Please Identify:  INTEREST INCOME CORPECTIONS	257	211	468
TOTAL REVENUES	63/217	355585	98680Z

Section 4: Expenses

	Water	Wastewater	Total
			Whice + Wallowales
Silaries & Wages	201913	165201	347114
Contract Labor	2228	1822	4050
Purchased Water			
Chemicals for Treatment	6618	5414	12032
Utilities (electricity)	88317	72260	106577
Repairs/Maintenance/Supplies	416406	174314	592720
Office Expenses	23659	19357	43016
Professional Fees (Accounting, Legal)	28274	23133	51407
Insurance	23118	18914	42032
Depreciation & Amortization	90383	73950	164333
Miscellaneous (describe in remarks below)	169231	328864	498095
Subto	al 1050147	885229	
Taxes:			
Federal Income Taxes			,
Property and Other Taxes (Payroll, etc.)	3386	2770	6136
Regulatory Expenses (Rate Case, Permits)	6031	41664	47695
Other (describe in remarks below)	31819	26034	57853
TOTAL EXPENSES	109/383	955697	2047080

Remarks:	RESORT DIERHEND ALLOCATED COSTS

TCEQ-20052 (Rev.1/2008) CCN No. 12087 20705

#### Section 5: Operating Items

#### Debt Information:

Annual interest expense on long and/or short term debt?

· Annual principal payment on debt?

Annual interest rate on debi?

Annual debt principal and interest?

Principal balance on outstanding debt at end of this reporting period?

s 7/057 s 9026/ s 16/3/8

#### Regulatory Assessment Fee:

What was the Regulatory Assessment fee amount submitted to TCEQ for the Calendar Year 2007?

s 2433.50

Rate Change:

What was the effective date of the last Rate Change?

FPPROVED: 3/1/00 -WATER & SEWER

EFFECTIVE DATE OF CURRENT PRATE

#### Section 6: Customer Information

	Number of Connections at		
Connection Type	Beginning of	End of	
Water	Calendar Year 2007 Calendar Yea		
Total	. 830	865	

	Number of Connections at	
Connection Type	Beginning of	End of
Wastewater	Calendar Year 2007	Calendar Year 2007
Total	710	718

512435236 T-612 P 19/22 F-387

#### Section 7: Water Production & Consumption

- A What is the total amount of water produced/pumped?
- B What is the total amount of water sold/billed?
- C How much water was lost?

What is the total percent of water loss?

gallons 030 gallons

To calculate the above, please reference the attached document Water and Wastewater Utilities Annual Report Instructions.

COMMENTS? ABOVE AVERAGE RAINFAU AND IN TURN REDUCED COMBUMPTION REQUIRED INCREASED LINE FLUSHING

#### Section 8: Wastewater Treated

What is the total amo	unt of wastewater treated?	23358330 gallons
Comments?	NONE	

#### Section 9: Utility Management & Operations Assessment

Utility Policy and Procedures		
Do you have an Application Form or Formal Process for New Customers?	Yes	No
Do you have a copy of your approved tariff and drought contingency plan for customers to review?	Yes	No
Do you have Written Operating Procedures for Routine Operations?	Yes	No
Do you have Written Emergency Actions Plan(s)?	Yes	No
Do you have Written Personnel Procedures?	Yes	No
Do you have Risk Management & Safety Policies?	Yes	No
Do you have Customer Service Policies? (including billing & collection)?	Ves	No
Do you have a Written Budget? (normally updated annually)?	Yes	No

TCEQ-20052 (Rev.1/2008) CCN No. 12087 20705

- 5 of 7

rom-ARMBRUS OWN, L L P

512435236

T-612 P 20/22 F-387

Did you or any utility staff attend the annual Water Supply Division  Conference/Trade Fair or any other utility/business related conferences this year? If so, please list them in Section 10.	Yes	□и₀
Do you record complaints or keep a complaint log?	Yes	No
Is a customer service representative, water system employee, or answering	Yes	□No
service accessible by phone at all times to all customers?	<del></del>	/25
Rules and Regulations		
If you own/operate a public water system, do you have a copy of 30 TAC	√Yes	□No
Chapter 290?		
If you own/operate a sewer system, do you have a copy of 30 TAC 314?	Yes	∐N₀
Do you have a copy of the Utility Regulation TAC 30 Rule, Chapter 291?	Yes	No
Do you have a copy of the Texas Water Code Chapter 13?	Yes	No
Administrative Information		
Do you notify customers prior to shutting down the system for repairs?		
Yes No Sometimes Only if greater than 2	hours	
How do you keep your customers informed?		
Billing Statements Newsletter Meetings		
Other E-MAIL		
Are water records kept separate from other business and personal records?	Yes	□No
Are records kept for additions to fixed assets?	Yes	No
Is the financial position of the system reviewed at least quarterly?	Yes	∏N₀
Are accounting records for water and wastewater kept separately?	Yes	No
Utility Assistance		
If your answer to any question above is "No", would you be receptive to	Yes	No
financial, managerial or technical assistance at no cost to the utility?		

TCEQ-20052 (Rev. 1/2008) CCN No. 12067 20705

SECTION #2 - THE RETERM UTILITIES - 1260127  THE RETERM UTILITIES - WQ0014373001 (14373-0  ROCK CREEK UTILITIES - WQ0014783001 (14783-0
ROCK CREEK UPLINES - WQ0014783001/14783-0
SECTION # 10 - TAWWA ANNUAR CONF FT. WORTH

#### Section 11: Sworn Statement

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE INFORMATION PROVIDED IN THIS REPORT IS
TRUE AND CORRECT TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE AND BELIEF.
(This document MUST be signed by the President or Owner of the Utility)
3 3
(str
This 1st Day of APRIL , 2008.
President or Owner:
(Signature)
/ (6
<u> </u>
CANDY GRACY
(Printed Name)
(1 imied instite)
$\wedge$
PRESIDENT DOU
The property of the
(Title)

TCEQ-20052 (Rev. 1/2008) CCN No. 17087 20705

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Received:

Dec 14 2009 05:36pm

Dec-14-09 05:39pm From-ARMBRUS OWN, APR-01-2008(TUE) 15:55

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T-612 P 22/22 F-387

P. DOI

Transaction Report

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### DOUBLE DIAMOND COMPANIES

Fax Cover Sheet
To: 512-239-6972  TCE  From: Harry Shearouse
MILITES FINACIAE REVIEW TEAM Regional Director of Utilities
Dopt: ATTN: ELIZADETH FLORES Dept: Utilities
Date: 4-1-08
RC: W (WW ARNUM REPORT E-mail: hshearouse@ddresoris.com
☐ Urgent ☐ For Review ☐ Please Comment ☐ Please Reply
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F-387

### ARMBRUST & BROWN, L.L.P.

ATTORNEYS AND COUNSELORS

100 CONGRESS AVENUE, SUITE 1300 AUSTIN, TEXAS 78701-2744 512-435-2300

FACSIMILE 512-435-2360

#### FACSIMILE COVER PAGE

Date: December 14, 2009

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From: John J. Carltoln	Telephone No.: 512.435.2360	
Client/Matter No.:30410.0102	Total No. of Pages Sent: 22	
REMARKS:		
Urgent For Your Review	Reply ASAP Please Comment	
Original To Follow Via: Hand Delivery	Federal Express First Class Mail	
RE: SOAH Docket No. 582-09-4288; TCEQ Docket No. 26 Utilities Company, Inc. to Change Water Rate Tariff for Service ATTACHMENTS Double Diamond Utilities, Co.'s Objections Interrogatories, Requests for Production, and Requests for Admir.	s and Responses to the Executive Director's Second	
interrogatories, requests for rioduction, and requests for re-		

THIS MESSAGE IS INTENDED ONLY FOR THE USE OF THE INDIVIDUAL OR ENTITY TO WHICH IT IS ADDRESSED AND MAY CONTAIN INFORMATION THAT IS PRIVILEGED, CONFIDENTIAL AND EXEMPT FROM DISCLOSURE UNDER APPLICABLE LAW. IF THE READER OF THIS MESSAGE IS NOT THE INTENDED RECIPIENT OR THE EMPLOYEE OR AGENT RESPONSIBLE FOR DELIVERING THE MESSAGE TO THE INTENDED RECIPIENT, YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT ANY DISSEMINATION, DISTRIBUTION, OR COPYING OF THIS COMMUNICATION IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED. IF YOU HAVE RECEIVED THIS DISTRIBUTION, OR COPYING OF THIS COMMUNICATION IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED. COMMUNICATION IN ERROR, PLEASE NOTEY US IMMEDIATELY BY TELEPHONE (COLLECT), AND RETURN THE ORIGINAL MESSAGE TO US AT THE ABOVE ADDRESS VIA THE U. S. POSTAL SERVICE. THANK YOU. 375252-1 12/03/2009

- Q. IF THE COST OF THE 8" LINE WAS \$21.83 PER LINEAR FOOT RATHER
  THAN \$15.41 PER LINEAR FOOT, WHAT IMPACT DOES THIS HAVE TO
- 3 YOUR EARLIER ANALYSIS?
- A. This would increase the current cost of the installed pipe for the Retreat system by over \$279,000. Table 15 below demonstrates my calculation.

TABLE 15: Determination of Adjusted Pipe Installation Costs

	Linear Feet	Unit Cost - Per Harkins	Total Cost	Unit Cost - Thurman/ Ballard	Revised Cost	Variance
2" Pipe	11,712	\$12.38	\$144,994.56	\$12.38	\$144,994.56	<b>\$-</b>
4" Pipe	8,886	\$13.74	122,093.64	\$13.74	122,093.64	-
	57,083	\$15.40	879,078.20	\$15.41	879,649.03	(570.83)
6" Pipe 8" Pipe	43,478	\$15.41	669,995.98	\$21.83	949,124.74	(279,128.76)
Total	121,159		\$1,816,162.38		\$2,095,861.97	\$(279,699.59)

Also, when I compared the computed total cost of the 6" pipe using the unit cost of \$15.40 identified by Harkins I arrive at \$879,078.20 which I have stated above. However, as illustrated on Exhibit WBSR-11, Page 6 (same as Exhibit DDU-13) Ms. Harkins arrived at \$879,649.03. It appears that while her label states that the unit cost is \$15.40, the actual unit cost she utilized was \$15.41 (the same unit cost quoted by Thurman/Ballard).

In contrast, the labeled unit cost of \$15.41 that Ms. Harkins had stated for the 8" pipe, does compute to the total stated cost on Exhibit WBSR-11, Page 6 (same as DDU-13). This reemphasizes my concern that she had utilized the Thurman/Ballard quotation, but may have made a clerical error in using the 8" unit cost of \$15.41 instead of \$21.83. As a result, the substantial differences in pipe installation costs which I described earlier in my testimony between the White Bluff system and the Retreat system would be further amplified. Table 16 below outlines the cost differentials based on this one change. This is the same as Table 12 above, except it includes a price per linear foor for 8" line of \$21.83 rather than \$15.41.

## 1 TABLE 16: Comparison of Current Cost of Pipes Installed Using Adjust Cost for Retreat Pipes

	White Bluff	Retreat	Variance	% Variance
Trending Analysis "Current" Cost of Pipes	\$4,823,327	\$2,095,862	\$2,727,465	56.5%
Active Connections as of December 2007	562	60	502	89.3%
Lots Served Build-Out Lots	6,314 7,000	1,931 5,200	4,383 1,800	69.4% 25.7%
Original Cost of Plant per Active				207.00/
Connection	\$8,582	\$34,931	(26,349)	-307.0%
Original Cost of Plant per Lot Served	\$764	\$1,085	(321)	-42.1%
Original Cost of Plant per Build- Out Lot	\$689	\$403	286	41.5%

## Q. IF THE COST OF THE 8" LINE WAS \$21.83 PER LINEAR FOOT RATHER THAN \$15.41 PER LINEAR FOOT, DO YOU HAVE ANY OTHER CONCERNS?

A. I do. Ms. Harkins stated that in reference to trending for the Retreat assets that "An evaluation was made for line work by tallying the footage of linework and trending the current installation costs back to the date of installation. The invoiced costs for linework were sufficient to cover the costs for the Retreat..." (Harkins, Page 7, Lines 7-10). This change in the trended costs may have a resultant impact on the previously made statement.

## Q. DO YOU HAVE ANY OTHER CONCERNS WITH THE CURRENT COST OF ASSETS UTILIZED TO TREND?

Yes, I have one other concern I'd like to highlight. As I mentioned earlier in my testimony, individual vendors often price their products differently based on the specific order received. Often, this is due to the size of the order; when you place a larger order, you may receive pricing at a lower unit cost than you would for smaller orders. Exhibit WBSR-9 is a document obtained through discovery. This is a pricing matrix from JM Eagle Waterworks. This is an example of variable pricing depending on the size of the order from a vendor. Therefore, in estimating the current price of the asset, the unique combination of order size that was used when the assets were installed should be used;

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otherwise the costs will be very different. I did not see any documentation that indicated 1 that the trending of the pipes was performed in such a manner. 2

#### PLEASE DESCRIBE YOUR FIRST CONCERN WITH THE HANDY WHITMAN 3 Q. INDICES USED TO TREND. 4

As illustrated on Exhibit WBSR-11, Page 6 and WBSR-12, Page 5 (which are the same 5 A. as DDU-13 and DDU-15), Ms. Harkins is using a current Handy-Whitman Index of 379. 6 The WBSR's discovery requests to DDU included the typical request for disclosure of 7 "all documents, tangible things, reports, models, or data compilations that have been 8 provided to, reviewed by, or prepared by or for the expert in anticipation of the expert's 9 testimony" as required by Tex. R. Civ. Pr. 194.2(f). The only Handy-Whitman index 10 provided to me is that which I'm providing as Exhibit WBSR-13. In reviewing this 11 document, I cannot reconcile the current index figure of 379. WBSR-13 provides a 12 current Handy-Whitman index of 331 for PVC Mains (line 38). I assume Ms. Harkins 13 utilized a different bulletin, but as I haven't received a copy of such bulletin, I cannot 14 verify the accuracy of the numbers utilized. 15

#### DO YOU HAVE ANY OTHER CONCERNS WITH THE HANDY WHITMAN 16 Q. INDICES USED TO TREND? 17

Yes, I do. As illustrated on Exhibit WBSR-11, Page 7 and WBSR-12, Page 6 (which are A. the same as DDU-13 and DDU-15), Ms. Harkins is using an installation Handy-Whitman Index of 146 for both the Retreat and White Bluff. This is of concern to me as the installation index is supposed to be reflective of the date the assets were installed. Using the same installation index would indicate that the systems were built at the same time. However, Mr. Gracy stated in his testimony that DDD acquired and began development of the White Bluff project in 1990 (Gracy Direct, 5/13), and the Retreat in 2001 (Gracy Direct, 6/19). This means that there is over 10 years in difference of initial acquisition and construction between the two systems. As a result, the utilization of the same installation index of 146 does not seem appropriate. I would expect to see a lower installation index figure for White Bluff, which was constructed first, than for the Retreat. 28 Furthermore, I again cannot reconcile the installation Handy-Whitman index factor of 29 146 back to Exhibit WBSR-13. 30

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## 1 Q. PLEASE DESCRIBE YOUR CONCERNS WITH THE TRENDED WHITE BLUFF VALUES.

A. Ms. Harkins had used the Handy-Whitman Index to trend asset values back to the assumed installation date of the assets. She used the assumed current costs, applied the index values and arrived at an assumed original cost of assets (trended values). I attempted to recompute the trended values using the methodology which I described above. In so doing, I arrived at the same trended cost of assets for the Retreat as stated in Ms. Harkins testimony; however, I could not reconcile back to the trended cost of assets for White Bluff that Ms. Harkins had stated. The Table below illustrates my computations:

TABLE 17: Computation of the Trended Costs

ABBE 17. Computation of the	White Bluff	Retreat
Trending Analysis "Current" Cost of Pipes, Per Harkins	\$4,823,327	\$1,816,733
	379	379
Current HW Index, per Harkins Install HW Index, per Harkins	146	146
HW Index Factor	2.60	2.60
Control Cost of Assets	\$1,858,062	\$699,850
Computed Trended Original Cost of Assets  Harkins Stated Trended Original Cost of Assets	\$1,735,904	\$699,850
Variance between Harkins Trended Original Cost and Recalculated Original Cost	\$(122,158)	\$(0)

## Q. PLEASE DESCRIBE YOUR CONCERNS WITH THE UTILIZATION OF TRENDING FOR ASSETS FOR WHICH INVOICES EXIST.

A. It is my understanding that Ms. Harkins trended all of the pipe assets for the White Bluff system, even though invoices do exist for some of the assets. In my opinion, it is not appropriate to trend for assets for which original invoices exist. An original invoice is the best record of the cost of that asset. This became more of a concern when I reviewed some of the original invoices for the assets. Exhibits WBSR-14 through WBSR-31 are samples of invoices which are for the purchase of pipe for White Bluff and the Retreat. Exhibits WBSR-32 through WBSR-47 are samples of invoices for the installation of pipe at the Retreat and White Bluff. In my opinion, this provides a much more accurate picture

of the actual costs of the assets than a theoretical trending, which is so much more vulnerable for discrepancies and errors.

## Q. PLEASE DESCRIBE YOUR CONCERNS WITH THE TRENDING DATES.

A. It is my understanding that Ms. Harkins trended all of the pipe assets back to a single date in time (1991 for the White Bluff system). However, my review of invoices indicates that the assets were not installed solely during 1991 (see Exhibits WBSR 14 through WBSR-47 for a sample of the other years the assets were actually installed). As the Handy-Whitman index changes for every year, the utilization of a single year to index back to inaccurately states the asset costs as the assets were installed during different years. As an example of the impact of this, if we use the current asset cost stated by Ms. Harkins of \$4,823,327 for the White Bluff System, and we use the Handy-Whitman index that I've provided as Exhibit WBSR-13, for line #38, PVC Mains, we see that the Cost Index is 184 in 1991 and 165 in 1992. Utilizing the methodology I've described above for computing the trended cost of the asset, we see that the 1991 cost would be more than 10% higher than the 1992 cost. I've illustrated this computation below.

TABLE 18: Comparison of Trending of Asset Costs to 1991 versus 1992

		1002 :- 100	Variance	% Variance
	1991 Index	1992 index	variance	\ arrance
Trending Analysis "Current" Cost of Pipes, Per Harkins, White Bluff	\$4,823,327	\$4,823,327		
Tipes, i of Haridis,				
Current HW Index	331	331		
Install HW Index	184	165		
HW Index Factor	1.80	2.01		
Computed Trended Original Cost of Assets	\$2,681,245	\$2,404,377	\$276,868	10.3%

## 19 Q. PLEASE DESCRIBE YOUR CONCERNS WITH THE ENTITY WHICH PAID FOR THE ASSETS.

21 A. The cost of the assets impacts two key cost of service components – depreciation expense 22 and return on investment. A utility can only recover a return on investment on those 23 assets for which the utility actually paid. Assets which were contributed by customers, or 24 for which there were contributions by the developer, should not be utilized in the return

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on investment calculation. Mr. Ekrut stated in his testimony that "Mr. Gracy has identified those assets, subject to the 80% payment by the parent company" (Ekrut Direct, 24/1). However, I have not seen any original source documentation which specifically illustrates exactly what assets DDU paid for and what assets DDD paid for. I would expect to see documents such as check stubs or general ledger entries from the utility's account system which prove exactly who paid for the assets.

### 7 Q. WHAT SORT OF DOCUMENTATION DID YOU RECEIVE?

- We did receive some documentation which included invoices, purchase order forms, accounts payable coding forms and check stubs. I've provided as Exhibits WBSR- 48 through WBSR-74 some of that documentation. As you can see, in many instances, check stubs and accounts payable coding forms were from the Double Diamond Construction (DDC) and DDI account; not DDU.
- Q. COULD THE ACCOUNTS PAYABLE FORMS THAT STATED DDC AND THE
  CHECK STUBS THAT WERE FROM THE DOUBLE DIAMOND
  CONSTRUCTION ACCOUNT BE ANOTHER NAME FOR DDU?
- 16 A. I certainly considered that as a possibility; however, as illustrated on Exhibits WBSR-75 17 through WBSR-82, there are some accounts payable forms which specifically indicate 18 DDU and "Utilities."
- 19 Q. HAVE YOU PERFORMED AN ANALYSIS WHICH IDENTIFIES THE ASSETS 20 THAT ARE DOCUMENTED TO HAVE BEEN PAID BY DDC VERSUS DDU?
- 21 A. Unfortunately, due to the limited resources of my clients, I couldn't perform such an analysis. As the burden of proof is the responsibility of DDU, I wanted to highlight that this is an issue which has yet to be resolved and is of concern in this case.

## VI. DISALLOWANCE OF DDU'S RATE CASE EXPENSES

26 27 Q. ARE YOU FAMILIAR WITH 30 TAC 291.28(8)?

A. Yes, it provides that, "A utility may not recover any rate case expenses if the increase in revenue generated by the just and reasonable rate determined by the commission after a contested case hearing is less than 51% of the increase in revenue that would have been generated by a utility's proposed rate."

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## Q. WHAT IS YOUR OPINION REGARDING WHETHER DDU SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO RECOVER RATE CASE EXPENSES IN THIS PROCEEDING?

- It is my opinion that DDU should not be allowed to recover any rate case expenses for several reasons, which I will outline shortly. However, before I outline those reasons, I'd like to first clarify which revenue recovery numbers should be utilized in making this test. This is necessary as we have several numbers at issue. A brief outline of the history of these proceedings follows:
  - DDU had submitted an Application in 2007 for increased rates.
  - The rates included in that Application were protested by rate payers.
  - Prior to resolution of the 2007 Application, DDU submitted yet another application for a rate increase in 2008, the subject of these proceedings.
  - The rates outlined in the 2007 Application were ultimately denied in later 2009.

As a result, DDU has requested that the 51% test of the increase to be compared against the rates which existed prior to the 2007 Application. DDU further suggests that the 51% increase should be measured using the revised revenue requirements which they identified in their direct testimony. I disagree with this approach. First, the information stated within the original Application was the information which DDU relied upon in setting rates for its customers, and it is the information that the rate payers relied upon in making their protest. Further, it is not any other parties' fault that DDU was unsuccessful in their prior rate case, but it has certainly cost other parties time and money to have to protest two rate cases, in one of which DDU did not prevail. Secondly, DDU has yet again changed its mind after submitting its application and has changed its numbers during the filing of their direct testimony, partially correcting some of its own errors (such as recording items as repairs and maintenance expenses that should have been capitalized). This is information that the rate payers also did not have when they made their decision to protest the rates submitted by DDU.

As a result, it is my opinion, that we should determine whether or not the 51% increase has been achieved by utilizing the prior information outlined in the original Application and compare that to the allowed revenue requirement/generation determined through this proceeding.

A.

- Q. WHAT, IN YOUR OPINION, SHOULD THE AMOUNT OF REVENUE
  INCREASE BE USED TO MEASURE WHETHER THE REVENUE GENERATE
  BY THE JUST AND REASONABLE RATE DETERMINED BY THE
  COMMISSION AFTER A CONTESTED CASE HEARING IS LESS THAN 51%
  OF THE INCREASE IN REVENUE THAT WOULD HAVE BEEN GENERATED
  BY THE UTILITY'S PROPOSED RATE?
- 7 A. The Application stated an annual revenue increase for the groundwater systems of \$152,173 (Application, Exhibit DDU-1, p.34). 51% of this increase would compute to \$77,608. This is the information that the utility acted upon in making its decision to increase rates, and it is the information the rate payers acted upon in protesting these rates. This is the measurement that should be utilized.
- 12 Q. USING THIS AMOUNT, DOES THE REQUESTED INCREASE MEET THE 51%
  13 MEASUREMENT?
- 14 No, it does not. The original Application outlined very specifically that the groundwater A. systems would subsidize the surface water system by \$153,947 through their related over 15 16 recovery (Application, Exhibit DDU-1, Attachment 12, Bates p. DDU000396). As DDU has presented absolutely no evidence that the surface water system and the groundwater 17 systems should be consolidated under a single tariff, cross-subsidization among those 18 systems is not allowed. The over recovery of \$153,947 outlined in the Application is 19 entirely for the purposes of subsidizing the Cliffs. This is more than \$77,608 (our 51% 20 measurement), and is in fact even greater than the requested increase stated in the 21 Application. I therefore conclude that DDU should not be allowed to recover its rate 22 23 cases expenses for this reason alone.
- Q. YOUR PREVIOUS ANALYSIS OF THE 51% TEST APPLIED TO THE
  GROUNDWATER SYSTEMS USING DDU PRESENTED NUMBERS. HAVE
  YOU PERFORMED ANY ANALYSIS OF THE 51% TEST FOR THE
  WHITEBLUFF SYSTEM ALONE?
- Yes, I have. In Table 19 below, I have determined the revenue to be generated from the
  White Bluff system using the billing determinates outlined by Mr. Ekrut and the various
  rates which have been proposed.

- Column 1 presents the rates and revenue to be generated from those rates which
  were in effect prior to the submittal of the 2007 Application. This is the "startingpoint" measurement that Mr. Ekrut suggests that we utilize, which I again
  emphasize is an inappropriate measurement.
- Column 2 presents the rates and revenue to be generated from those rates which were requested by the 2007 Application. This is the information which my clients relied upon in making their decision to appeal the rates charged by DDU, it is further the information which DDU used in deciding to proceed with this application. Therefore, in my opinion, this should be utilized as a "starting-point" for determining whether the 51% has been met.
- Column 3 presents the rates and revenue to be generated from those rates which were outlined in the original Application.
- Column 4 presents the rates and revenue to be generated from those rates which have been revised as a result of DDU's direct testimony.
- Column 5 presents the separated rates and revenue to be generated from those rates for White Bluff presented by Mr. Ekrut during his direct testimony.

Even though it is my opinion that these rates proposed by DDU (columns 4 and 5) are overstated due to the trending analysis results, I think this table clearly shows that these rates will not meet the 51% test. My work paper for this table is attached as Exhibit WBSR-83. As you can see from this table, if the consolidated rates proposed by DDU for the White Bluff and Retreat systems are denied, as we have requested, then the revenue to be generated from the White Bluff system (even using the inflated total plant investment, which I emphasize is not a reasonable request) is actually lower than revenues to be generated from the rates requested in the 2007 Application; \$610,928 recovered compared to \$669,399. In my opinion, that differential will be amplified when appropriate adjustments to the White Bluff revenue requirements are made due to removal of the regulatory asset, the over-stated plant investment, and other adjustments which may be suggested by parties.

Table 19. White Bluff Residential Rate and Revenue Generation Comparison 1

			- Generation (	Comparison				
	- · 1 - m tial	Rate and Revent	de Gouera	Revised Rates	Separated			
Table 19. White F	Huff Residential	Rais	Rates	Revised Rates	rates proposed			
Table 19. Willes	ffort	Rates requested	originally	requested in	by Chris Ekrut			
	Dates in Circu	in 2007 Rate	requested in	direct case	in testimony[3]			
Description	prior to 2007	Application	this	this				
	Rate	Asple	uns	proceeding[2]				
	Application[1]		proceeding		\$31.01			
				\$34.72	\$31.02			
		\$42.00	\$39.00		\$77.51			
0/455	\$30.00	\$42.00		\$86.80				
5/8 or 3/4"	Ψ50	1	\$97.50		\$155.03			
meter, base	\$50.10	\$65.00	\$195.00	\$173.60	\$248.04			
1" meter, base		\$128.00		\$277.77	\$465.08			
1.5" meter, base	\$99.90	\$280.00	\$312.00	\$520.81				
1.5 motos	\$159.80		\$585.00		\$1.59			
2" meter, base	\$320.00	\$425.00	\$2.00	\$1.78				
3" meter, base		\$2.50	_		\$2.19			
0-3000 (pe	r \$1.85		\$2.75	\$2.45	1 1			
1000 gallons)	<u> </u>	\$2.50	\$2.75					
3001-10,000	\$1.85		1		\$3.02			
	00 \		102.90	\$3.38	1			
1 (Der		\$2.75	\$3.80					
gallons)	\$2.10	\$2.72	1		\$4.17			
10,001-15,000	00	1		\$4.67	34.17			
I (Der		\$2.75	\$5.25		1 1			
gallons)	0 \$2.10	\$2.73	1		25.76			
15,001-20,00	v 1	1	\	\$6.45	\$5.76			
l (per 1)	000		\$7.25	\$0.13	029.05			
gallons)	(per \ \$4.75	\$5.25	\	00 \$684,005.1	\$610,928.95			
20.001 +	(ber		\$768,534	.00   5004,005.				
1000 gallons	\$517,842.5	8 \$669,399	.20					
Revenue	\$517,042.5			-	TO TO			
Generated				arrotti I	NOT BE ABLE TO			
Revenue Generated  TRASONS WHY DDU SHOULD NOT BE ABLE TO								

### ARE THERE ANY OTHER REASONS WHY DDU SHOULD NOT BE ABLE TO RECOVER ITS RATE CASE EXPENSES? Q. 3

Yes, DDU's rate case expenses are not reasonable because failure to present accurate numbers in its Application may have prevented this case from being resolved without a hearing. DDU has repeatedly failed to provide sufficient documentation and information to justify its costs. In both the current rate case and the previous rate case, DDU has significantly changed its Application; and errors have been found in both cases. Had DDU provided a more accurate revenue requirement initially, it is possible that parties would not have challenged its rates or have settled prior to hearing. By throwing meaningless numbers into its application, DDU virtually ensured that it would go to hearing in this Application. Utilities should not be rewarded for putting together poor rate applications and running up legal costs unnecessarily. This provides a separate reason for determining that DDU's rate case expenses are not just and reasonable.

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		DRIVE ARLE TO RECOVER EXPENSES		
1	Q.	IN YOUR OPINION, SHOULD DDU BE ABLE TO RECOVER EXPENSES		
2		ASSOCIATED WITH ITS TRENDING ANALYSIS?		
3	A.	ASSOCIATED WITH ITS TRENDING ANALYSIS AND ASSOCIATED WITH ITS TRENDING ANALYSIS AND ASSOCIATED WITH ITS TRENDING ANALYSIS (Harkins Direct, 9/14) in rate case Absolutely not. DDU is seeking to recover \$10,675.11 (Harkins Direct, 9/14) in rate case		
4		Absolutely not. DDU is seeking to recover \$10,075.17 (continued to the performance of an asset trending analysis performed by expenses incurred so far for the performance of an asset trending analysis performed by expenses incurred so far for the performance of an asset trending analysis performed by expenses incurred so far for the performance of an asset trending analysis performed by expenses incurred so far for the performance of an asset trending analysis performed by expenses incurred so far for the performance of an asset trending analysis performed by expenses incurred so far for the performance of an asset trending analysis performed by expenses incurred so far for the performance of an asset trending analysis performed by expenses incurred so far for the performance of an asset trending analysis performed by expenses incurred so far for the performance of an asset trending analysis performed by expenses incurred so far for the performance of an asset trending analysis performed by expenses incurred so far for the performance of an asset trending analysis performed by expenses incurred so far for the performance of an asset trending analysis performed by expenses incurred so far for the performance of an asset trending analysis performed by expenses and the performance of an asset trending analysis performed by expenses and the performance of an asset trending analysis performed by expenses and the performance of an asset trending analysis performed by expenses and the performance of an asset trending analysis performed by expenses and the performance of an asset trending analysis performed by expenses and the performance of an asset trending analysis performed by expenses and the performance of an asset trending analysis performed by expenses and the performance of an asset trending analysis performed by expenses and the performance of an asset trending analysis performed by the performance of an asset trending and the performance of a performance of a performance of a performance of a performance of		
5		Ms. Harkins. As a reasonable and prudent utility, BB of the same and money,		
6		Ms. Harkins. As a reasonable and prudent utility, 22 all of its assets. DDU has already had one rate case, which cost parties time and money, all of its assets. DDU has already had one rate case, which they failed to meet their burden of		
7		all of its assets. DDU has already had one rate case, which they failed to meet their burden of in which to demonstrate the costs of its assets, which they failed to meet their burden of proof regarding their assets. DDU should not now be allowed to recover any additional proof regarding their assets. DDU should not now be allowed to recover any additional proof regarding their assets.		
8		proof regarding their assets. DDU should not now be dark of the proof regarding their assets. DDU witness Victoria Harkins, in attempting to expenses, such as those relating to DDU witness Victoria Harkins, in attempting to		
9		expenses, such as those relating to DDO withess views and the second of		
10		demonstrate the value of its assets. Furthermore, as a demonstrate the value of its assets. Furthermore, as a demonstrate the value of its assets. Furthermore, as a demonstrate the value of its assets. Furthermore, as a demonstrate the value of its assets. Furthermore, as a demonstrate the value of its assets. Furthermore, as a demonstrate the value of its assets. Furthermore, as a demonstrate the value of its assets. Furthermore, as a demonstrate the value of its assets. Furthermore, as a demonstrate the value of its assets. Furthermore, as a demonstrate the value of its assets.		
11				
12 13				
		should also be disallowed. Any expenses associated his failure are not reasonable and necessary and should not be borne by the rate payers of this		
14		failure are not reasonable and necessary and should		
15		utility.		
16	•	VII. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR DEVELOPING JUST AND REASONABLE RATES		
17	7	VII. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR DEVELOY AND VIA A SEPARATE REVENUE REQUIREMENT FOR THE WHITE BLUFF		
18	3	VIA A SEPARATE REVENUE REQUIREMENTS SUBDIVISION SYSTEM		
19	9	SUBDIVISION STEEL		
2	0	O. DO YOU HAVE ANY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE RATES TO BE		
2	.1			
2	22	CHARGED TO WHITE BLUFF RATE PAYERS?  On the control of WBSR are limited; therefore, we did not have the support of the control		
2	23	A. Unfortunately, the resources of WBSR are infinees, and resources available to compute actual recommended rates. However, I would like to make		
2	24	resources available to compute actual recommendation		
,	25	the following recommendations:  • DDU should be required to adopt separate revenue requirements and rates  • Lawrence in great detail above, White		
	26	Detroot As I explained in State		
	27	towns are not substantially similar to		
	28	Bluff and the Retreat systems are not substantially appeared for purposes of aspects, and never will be. Therefore, they must be separated for purposes of aspects, and never will be.		
	29	aspects, and never will be. Therefore, and policy capable of making these		

setting revenue requirements and rates. DDU is clearly capable of making these

separations as it has already done so in its direct case.

29

30

31

		DDU's proposed regulatory asset for prior unrecovered costs should be
1	•	• DDU's proposed regulatory asset for proposed of proposed regulatory asset for proposed disallowed because this cost is due to poor management on DDU's part. If any disallowed because this cost is due to poor management on DDU's part. If any
2		disallowed because this cost is due to poor and such costs were to be allowed, these should be instituted as a surcharge and not an such costs were to be allowed, these should be instituted as a surcharge and not an
3		asset so there is no risk that the costs will continue to be recovered in perpetuity.
4		• The original asset costs for the White Bluff system should be set based on
5		• The original asset costs for the write Blazzage actual invoices. As I explained, there were too many discrepancies in the trending actual invoices. As I explained, there were too many discrepancies in the trending
6		actual invoices. As I explained, there were too many analysis provided by Ms. Harkin to derive reliable asset values. Further, a reliable
7		analysis provided by Ms. Harkin to derive remains and trending analysis should be utilized only to confirm the claimed asset costs, not
8		
9		derive them.
10		As I performed my analysis of the topics which were my focus in my
11		• As I performed my analysis  testimony, I also noted some additional adjustments which should be made:  testimony, I also noted some additional adjustments which should be made:
12		(1) DDU should not be able to utilize the capital structure of its parent company for the determination of rate of return [from my discussion of the regulatory
13		for the determination of rate of return [11011 my content of the determination of the determination of rate of return [11011 my content of the determination of rate of return [11011 my content of the determination of rate of return [11011 my content of the determination of rate of return [11011 my content of the determination of rate of the determination
14		by Ms. Harkins which were booked as expenses by DDU during the test year, but
15		by Ms. Harkins which were booked as expenses by BB with the asset trending should have been capitalized as assets [from my discussion of the asset trending
16		should have been capitalized as assets [from my discourse
17		<ul> <li>analysis].</li> <li>DDU should not be allowed to recover rate cases expenses. As I explained, the</li> </ul>
18		DDU should not be allowed to recover rate cases support     DDU are not reasonable or necessary.
19		rate case expenses identified by DDU are not reasonable or necessary.
20		In order to achieve just and reasonable rates, the revenue requirements for the White
21		In order to achieve just and reasonable rates, the revenue of the system as set forth in Exhibit DDU-22 may serve as a starting point, with Bluff system as set forth in Exhibit DDU-22 may serve as a starting point, with the system as set forth in Exhibit DDU-22 may serve as a starting point, with the system as set forth in Exhibit DDU-22 may serve as a starting point, with the system as set forth in Exhibit DDU-22 may serve as a starting point, with the system as set forth in Exhibit DDU-22 may serve as a starting point, with the system as set forth in Exhibit DDU-22 may serve as a starting point, with the system as set forth in Exhibit DDU-22 may serve as a starting point, with the system as set forth in Exhibit DDU-22 may serve as a starting point, with the system as set forth in Exhibit DDU-22 may serve as a starting point, with the system as set forth in Exhibit DDU-22 may serve as a starting point, with the system as set forth in Exhibit DDU-22 may serve as a starting point, with the system as the system as set forth in Exhibit DDU-22 may serve as a starting point.
22		Bluff system as set forth in Exhibit DDO-22 may be reductions made to reflect the issues I have identified above. Additionally, I am reductions made to reflect the issues I have identified above additional reductions
23		reductions made to reflect the issues I have identified the reductions certain that other parties, including the TCEQ ED, will have additional reductions
24		certain that other parties, including the TCDQ ED,
25		which need to be taken into account, further reducing DDU's rates.
26		AND CONCLUSION
27		VIII. CONCLUSION
28	0	HAVE YOU FORMED AN OPINION AS TO WHETHER THE RATES
29	Q.	PROPOSED IN DDU'S APPLICATION AND DIRECT CASE ARE JUST AND
30		REASONABLE?
31		READOLLE

- 1 A. Yes. As explained above, the rates proposed in DDU's Application, and as later revised in DDU's direct case, are not just and reasonable. However, by separating the White Bluff system from the Retreat system for rate-setting purpose and appropriate adjustments to accommodate issues raised by myself and others in this docket, I am confident that the TCEQ can establish just and reasonable rates for the White Bluff system.
- 7 Q. DOES THIS CONCLUDE YOUR TESTIMONY AT THIS TIME?
- Yes, it does. However, I would like to reserve my right to revise/supplement this testimony in the event further information is made available.

## **NELISA HEDDIN** BUSINESS AND FINANCIAL SERVICES



Ms. Heddin is an industry expert in financial and econometric modeling for electric, water, wastewater and solid waste utilities. She has extensive experience in the performance of cost of service and rate design studies for municipal utilities. Ms. Heddin has performed numerous cost of service and rate design studies for water, wastewater, solid waste, and electric utilities throughout the country having operating budgets ranging from \$150,000 to \$100,000,000. Examples of cities in which Ms. Heddin has provided financial analysis include the Cities of Phoenix, Tucson, Little Rock, Dallas, Webster, Missouri City, Huntsville, Granbury, and Georgetown. She has a broad understanding of the water, wastewater and solid waste utilities industries encompassing the entire process of providing services to customers, ranging from water supply, system capacity, operational issues, and financial implications. Ms. Heddin has a Masters of Business Administration from New Mexico State University with a concentration in Finance, and utilizes this educational training to enhance the financial analysis provided by WRM. Further, Ms. Heddin is the Current Chairman of the Texas Section AWWA Rates and Charges Subcommittee, working to provide educational insight on rate and financial issues facing water utilities in the Sate of Texas.

#### **EDUCATION:**

B.S., Biology, New Mexico State University, 1996 MBA, Finance, New Mexico State University, 1999

INDUSTRY EXPERIENCE: Water Resources Management, LP, Vice-President, 2003-present: Ms. Heddin brings a background of financial analysis for municipal utility systems to WRM. Ms. Heddin works with the pool of professionals at WRM to provide WRM's clients with a complete scope of services ranging from management to operational consulting. Ms. Heddin is the head of WRM's Business and Financial Services practices and manages projects for a variety of engagements.

Reed, Stowe & Yanke, LLC, Senior Consultant, 2000-2003: Provided financial, economic and management consulting for municipal utility systems. Ms. Heddin conducted financial analysis and management consulting for water, wastewater, electric, and solid waste utilities. During her tenure at RS&Y, she conducted multiple cost of service and rate design studies for water, wastewater, electric, wastewater reuse, and solid waste utilities. Additionally, Ms. Heddin conducted several impact fee and capital recovery fee analyses for water and wastewater utilities, service area valuations for water utilities, and airspace valuations for solid waste utilities. Ms. Heddin also conducted water loss analyses for municipal water utilities.

Arthur Andersen, Consultant, 1999-2000: Worked with Arthur Andersen's litigation support team to perform damage valuations. Ms. Heddin used basic financial principles in the performance of valuation analyses and prepared expert witness testimony.

CHAIRMAN OF TAWWA RATES AND CHARGES SUBCOMMITTEE

EXPERTISE IN **ECONOMETRIC** MODELING

EXTENSIVE EXPERIENCE IN COST OF SERVICE AND RATE DESIGN **STUDIES** 

MASTERS OF **BUSINESS** ADMINISTRATION IN FINANCE

WBSR-2



### SAMPLE OF RELEVANT PROJECT EXPERIENCE: Development of Impact Fees, Capital Recovery Fees, and Development Fees:

City of Cuero, Texas City of Burnet, Texas City of Corinth, Texas Missouri City, Texas City of Garland, Texas Jonah Special Utility District Manville Water Supply Corporation

## Cost of Service and Rate Design Projects:

Wells Branch MUD City of Cuero, Texas City of Mexia, Texas Bistone Municipal Water Supply Corporation Whiterock Water Supply Corporation City of Del Rio, Texas City of North Lake, Texas City of Missouri City, Texas City of Alamo Heights, Texas City of Selma, Texas City of Southside Place, Texas City of Sweetwater, Texas City of Cameron, Texas City of Corinth, Texas City of Bonham, Texas City of Pecos, Texas City of Pflugerville, Texas City of Burnet, Texas City of Idabel, Oklahoma City of New Madrid, Missouri Quail Valley Utility District MB Wastewater Services, LLC City of Richmond, Texas Fair Management, LC City of Lindale, Texas City of Webster, Texas Travis County WCID #17 City of Garland, Texas City of Gladewater, Texas City of Phoenix, Arizona City of Garland, Texas Jonah Special Utilities District City of Grand Prairie, Texas City of Little Rock, Arkansas City of Granbury, Texas

#### Valuation Analysis:

U.S. Navy City of Dallas, Texas Green Valley Special Utility District

### PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS:

American Water Works Association

Chairman Texas AWWA Rates and Charges Subcommittee

<u>Texas Municipal League</u>

### PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS: Incode Education Forum, 2007 - Selling Utility Rate

<u>Studies</u>

Texas Water, 2006 - Water Loss Determination

Munis Education Forum, 2006 - <u>Utility Rate Analysis</u>

Incode Education Forum, 2006 - Utility Rate Analysis

GFOAT, 2005 - Capital Financing Seminar

GFOAT Gulf-Coast Chapter, 2005 - Presentation - The GFO's Water Challenges: A Guide for Meeting the Financial Challenges of Water Utilities Today

Texas H2O, November/December 2004, "Finding the Water: How to Cope with HB3338"

Office of Rural Community Affairs, 2004 - Water Related Training for Local Leaders

Texas Water, 2004 - Professional Paper - Water Audits. Water Loss and HB3338

Texas Rural Water Association Annual Conference 2002- Presentation - <u>Encroachment Issues: Service</u> Area Valuations

City of Hobbs, New Mexico City of Georgetown, Texas City of Tucson, Arizona Manville Water Supply Corporation City of Corsicana, Texas City of Huntsville, Texas City of Tyler, Texas

## **Operations and Management Reviews and Studies:**

Quail Valley Utility District City of Waco, Texas City of Bastrop, Texas City of Uvalde, Texas City of Gladewater, Texas City of Galveston, Texas

#### Other Projects

- -White Bluff Rate Payers- Litigation Support and Expert Witness Testimony
- -City of Lakeway Review of Utility Rates of Lakeway MUD
- -City of Richmond Litigation Support
- -City of Pecos Litigation Support and Expert Witness Testimony
- -Wells Branch MUD -Review of City of Austin Rate Study
- -Office of Rural Community Affairs Curriculum Development and Training for Local Leaders on Water Related Issues
- -Brazos River Authority Watershed Management Plan Development
- -Brazos Valley Groundwater Conservation District Various Management Activities
- -Missouri City, Texas Business Planning
- -Missouri City, Texas Surface Water Feasibility Analysis
- -Missouri City, Texas Groundwater Reduction Plan Preparation
- -Missouri City, Texas GRP Implementation
- -Bastrop, Texas Billing System Review

Bryan W. Shaw, Ph.D., Chairman Buddy Garcia, Commissioner Carlos Rubinstein, Commissioner Mark R. Vickery, P.G., Executive Director



## TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Protecting Texas by Reducing and Preventing Pollution

November 13, 2009

Persons on the attached mailing list. TO:

Double Diamond Utilities Company, Inc. RE:

TCEQ Docket No. 2007-1708-UCR; SOAH Docket No. 582-08-0698

Certificate of Convenience and Necessity No. 12087

## Decision of the Commission on Application.

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality ("TCEQ" or "Commission") has made a decision on the above-referenced application. Enclosed with this letter is a copy of the Commission's order and tariff. Unless a Motion for Rehearing ("MFR" or "motion") is timely filed with the chief clerk, as described below, this action of the Commission will become final. A MFR is a request for the Commission to review its decision on the matter. Any motion must explain why the Commission should review the decision.

## Deadline for Filing Motion for Rehearing.

A MFR must be received by the chief clerk's office no later than 20 days after the date a person is notified of the Commission's order on this application. A person is presumed to have been notified on the third day after the date that this order is mailed.

Motions may be filed with the chief clerk electronically at <a href="http://www10.tceq.state.tx.us/epic/efilings/">http://www10.tceq.state.tx.us/epic/efilings/</a> or by filing an original and 7 copies with the Chief Clerk at the following address:

> LaDonna Castañuela, Chief Clerk TCEQ, MC-105 P.O. Box 13087 Austin, Texas 78711-3087 Fax: 512/239-3311

In addition, a copy of the motion must be sent on the same day to each of the individuals on the attached mailing list. A certificate of service stating that copies of the motion were sent to those on the mailing list must also be sent to the chief clerk. The procedures for filing and serving motions for rehearing and responses are located in 30 Texas Administrative Code (TAC) §80.272 and 30 TAC §1.10-1.11. The hardcopy filing requirement is waived by the General Counsel pursuant to 30 TAC §1.10(h).

The written motion must contain (1) the name and representative capacity of the person filing the motion; (2) the style and official docket number assigned by SOAH or official docket number

WBSR-3

assigned by the Commission; (3) the date of the order; and (4) a concise statement of each allegation of error.

Unless the time for the Commission to act on the motion is extended, the MFR is overruled by operation of law 45 days after a person is notified of the Commission's order on this application.

If you have any questions or need additional information about the procedures described in this letter, please call the Office of Public Assistance toll free at 1-800-687-4040.

Sincerely,

aDonna Castaffuela

Chief Clerk

LDC/ms

Enclosures

#### Double Diamond Utilities Company, Inc. TCEQ Docket No. 2007-1708-UCR SOAH Docket No. 582-08-0698

#### FOR THE APPLICANT:

Ali Abazari Jackson Walker L.L.P. 100 Congress Avenue, Suite 1100 Austin, Texas 78701

Michael R. Skahan Double Diamond Utilities Co. 10100 North Central Expressway, Suite 600 Dallas, Texas 75231

#### INTERESTED PERSONS:

Todd McCall
70 Oyster Bay Court
Graford, Texas 76449
Representing the Cliffs Subdivision
Ratepayers

Jack D. and Sandra McCartney 6300 Annanhill Street Cleburne, Texas 76033

Shari Heino
Mathews & Freeland, L.L.P.
327 Congress Avenue, Suite 300
Austin, Texas 78701
Representing the White Bluff Subdivision
Ratepayers

Denis M. Hanley, Sr. 12213 Rolling Oaks WB69 Whitney, Texas 76692

## FOR THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR via electronic mail:

Stephanie Skogen, Staff Attorney Texas Commission on Environmental Quality Environmental Law Division MC-173 P.O. Box 13087 Austin, Texas 78711-3087 Brian Dickey, Technical Staff Texas Commission on Environmental Quality Water Supply Division MC-153 P.O. Box 13087 Austin, Texas 78711-3087

## FOR OFFICE OF PUBLIC ASSISTANCE via electronic mail:

Bridget Bohac, Director Texas Commission on Environmental Quality Office of Public Assistance MC-108 P.O. Box 13087 Austin, Texas 78711-3087

## FOR PUBLIC INTEREST COUNSEL via electronic mail:

Eli Martinez, Attorney Texas Commission on Environmental Quality Public Interest Counsel MC-103 P.O. Box 13087 Austin, Texas 78711-3087

## FOR THE CHIEF CLERK via electronic mail:

LaDonna Castañuela Texas Commission on Environmental Quality Office of Chief Clerk MC-105 P.O. Box 13087 Austin, Texas 78711-3087

- \* The Honorable Kerrie Jo Qualtrough Administrative Law Judge State Office of Administrative Hearings P. O. Box 13025 Austin, Texas 78711-3025
- \* Courtesy Copy via inter-agency mail

# TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY



AN ORDER DENYING THE APPLICATION OF DOUBLE DIAMOND UTILITIES TO INCREASE ITS RATES; TCEQ DOCKET NO. 2007-1708-UCR; SOAH DOCKET NO. 582-08-0698

On October 7, 2009, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ or Commission) considered the application of Double Diamond Utilities (DDU) to change its water rates and its tariff in Hill, Palo Pinto, and Johnson Counties, Texas, under Certificate of Convenience and Necessity No. 12087. A Proposal for Decision (PFD) was presented by Kerrie Jo Qualtrough, an Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) with the State Office of Administrative Hearings (SOAH).

After considering the ALJ's PFD, the Commission adopts the following Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law:

### I. FINDINGS OF FACT

## Procedural History and Jurisdiction

- DDU provides retail water utility service under Certificate of Convenience and Necessity No. 12087, in Hill, Johnson, and Palo Pinto Counties, Texas.
- DDU operates three water systems serving three separate developments: White Bluff water system (Hill County), the Retreat water system (Johnson County), and the Cliffs water system (Palo Pinto County).

not want

- 3. In addition to its three water systems, DDU operates three wastewater systems, one for each development.
- 4. Notices of the proposed rate change were mailed to DDU's customers on July 27, 2007.
- 5. On August 2, 2007, DDU filed its application to increase its water rates and amend its tariff.
- 6. The effective date of the increase was September 28, 2007.
- 7. In December 2007, DDU filed an additional application to supplement the August 7, 2007 application. These two applications are collectively referred to as the "2007 application."
- 8. More than ten percent of DDU's customers filed protests by the applicable deadline.
- 9. On October 24, 2007, the Commission's Chief Clerk referred the application to SOAH for hearing.
- 10. On November 14, 2007, the Chief Clerk mailed notice of a preliminary hearing to DDU.
- 11. On November 29, 2007, SOAH issued an order requiring that the preliminary hearing be held in Hillsboro, Texas, on February 5, 2008.
- 12. On December 13, 2007, the Chief Clerk mailed the revised notice of a preliminary hearing to DDU.
- 13. DDU mailed the revised notice of the preliminary hearing to its customers on January 9, 2008.
- 14. The notice contained a statement of the time, place, and nature of the hearing; a statement of the legal authority and jurisdiction under which the hearing was to be held; a reference to the particular sections of the statutes and rules involved; and a short, plain statement of the matters asserted.

15. On February 5, 2008, an ALJ held the preliminary hearing as indicated in the notice. The following attended and were admitted as parties:

PARTY	REPRESENTATIVE		
DDU	Michael Skahan		
Executive Director (ED)	Stephanie Skogen  Eli Martinez  Shari Heino		
Office of Public Interest Counsel (OPIC)			
White Bluff Subdivision Ratepayers (WBSR)			
Jack and Sandra McCartney	Themselves		
The Cliff's Subdivision Ratepayers	Todd McCall		

- 16. No party disputes either the Commission's or SOAH's jurisdiction.
- 17. The ALJ held the hearing on the merits of the application on February 23-24, 2009, and all of the parties appeared and participated.

### Overview of the Proposed Rate Increase

18. At the end of the 2006 test year, on December 31, 2006, the three water systems combined had the following number of metered connections:

Metered Connections: All three subdivisions	Total
5/8" X 3/4"	749
1"	38
1 1/2"	10
2"	31
Total	828

- 19. In its August 2007 application, DDU asserted that it had a revenue requirement of \$1,281,476.
- 20. In the December 2007 application, DDU asserted it had a revenue requirement of \$1,043,958.

- 21. In both the August and December 2007 applications, DDU calculated its revenue requirement by combining the financial information for all three water systems. DDU did not calculate the revenue requirement for each water system separately.
- 22. In its application, DDU requested to change its rates as follows:

	Previous Rates	August 2007 Application	December 2007 Application
The Cliffs - Minimum Bill			NA
5/8"	\$ 30.00	\$ 52.00	
1"	50.10	127.00	NA
	99.90	253.00	NA
1 1/2"	159.80	405.00	NA
2" 3"	320.00	757.00	NA
Gallonage Charge per 100	00 gallons		DIA.
1,001-10,000 Gallons	\$ 1.85	\$ 2.60	NA
	4.75	5.20	NA
10,001-20,000 Gallons	6.75	7.80	NA
Over 20,001 Gallons			
White Bluff and the Retreat	- Minimum Bin	\$42.00	\$42.00
5/8"	\$30.00	\$65.00	\$65.00
1"	\$50.10	\$128.00	\$128.00
1 1/2"	\$99.90	#200.00	0000.00
2"	\$159.80		0.425.0
3"	\$320.00	\$425.00	ψ123.0
Gallonage Charge per 1	000 gallons	70.56	\$2.5
1,001-10,000 Gallons	\$1.85		¢2.5
10,001-20,001 Gallons	\$2.10		62.0
Over 20,001 Gallons	\$4.75	5 . \$5.2	5   \$3.2

23. On September 28, 2007, DDU began charging the rates in the August 2007 application.

- 24. The December 2007 application reduced the volumetric rate for over 20,001 gallons for the White Bluff and the Retreat ratepayers from the rate of \$5.25 per thousand gallons to \$3.20 per thousand gallons.
- 25. DDU prepared a notice to the White Bluff and the Retreat ratepayers. This notice reflecting the lower rate of \$3.20 per thousand gallons over 20,001 gallons was included in the December 2007 application. DDU did not send notice of the reduction in the requested rate to the White Bluff and Retreat ratepayers and did not charge the ratepayers the lower gallonage charge found in its December 2007 application.
- 26. DDU charged the rates in its August 2007 application until December of 2008.
- 27. On October 23, 2008, DDU submitted another application for a rate increase, which is not the subject of this case.
- 28. The rates at issue in this proceeding were in effect approximately 15 months.

## Multiple Systems Consolidated Under One Tariff and Rate Design

- 29. Prior to filing its August 2007 application, DDU utilized the same two-rate structure for the three subdivisions: The ratepayers in White Bluff and the Retreat paid the same rate while the Cliffs ratepayers paid a different rate. DDU continues this same rate structure in its 2007 application.
- 30. DDU did not present evidence on why the two water systems should be consolidated under one rate.
- 31. DDU did not show how the Retreat and the White Bluff water systems are substantially similar in terms of their costs of service.