



Control Number: 44600



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PUC DOCKET NO. 44600 2016 APR 14 PM 2: 28
SOAH DOCKET NO. 473-16-0477.WS

PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

FILED & CLERK

APPLICATION OF ROLLING HILLS
WATER SERVICE, INC. FOR A
RATE/TARIFF CHANGE

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BEFORE THE STATE OFFICE

OF

ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS

**JOINT MOTION TO ADMIT EVIDENCE AND REMAND TO THE COMMISSION
FOR REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF AMENDED APPLICATION**

COMES NOW the Staff (Staff) of the Public Utility Commission of Texas (Commission) representing the public interest, and Rolling Hills Water Service, Inc. (Rolling Hills or Applicant) files this Joint Motion to Admit Evidence and Remand to the Commission for Review and Approval of Amended Application. In support thereof, the parties show the following:

I. MOTION TO ADMIT EVIDENCE AND REMAND PROCEEDING

On April 14, 2016, Rolling Hills and Staff entered into the attached Stipulation that resolves the issues in this proceeding and recommends approval of the rates proposed by Rolling Hills in the Application: a monthly base rate including 2,000 gallons of \$44.95 and \$2.74 for each additional 1,000 gallons. The calculation of those rates is amended by Staff's recommendation. The Parties request that the following be admitted into evidence for the purpose of supporting this joint agreement and seeking Commission approval of the application, as amended.

1. The Application and Affidavit of Notice for rate/tariff change, filed on March 31, 2015.
2. The Stipulation.
3. Rolling Hills' response to Staff's first set of RFIs, filed on August 31, 2015.
4. Rolling Hills' response to Staff's second set of RFIs, filed on October 21, 2015.

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5. The Memorandum of Emily Sears, Heidi Graham and Mary Lupo, in support of the requested rates and amending the background calculations of depreciation, filed on April 14, 2016.

Dated April 14, 2016

Respectfully Submitted,

Margaret Uhlig Pemberton
Division Director-Legal Division

Karen S. Hubbard
Managing Attorney - Legal Division



Alexander Petak
Attorney-Legal Division
State Bar No. 24088216
(512) 936-7377
(512) 936-7268 (facsimile)
Public Utility Commission of Texas
1701 N. Congress Avenue
P.O. Box 13326
Austin, Texas 78711-3326

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SOAH DOCKET NO. 473-16-0477.WS

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that a copy of this document will be served on all parties of record on April 14, 2016, in accordance with 16 TAC § 22.74.



Alexander Petak

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P.U.C. DOCKET NO. 44600
SOAH DOCKET NO. 473-16-0477-WSAH 9: 01

**APPLICATION OF ROLLING HILLS
WATER SERVICE, INC. FOR A
RATE/TARIFF CHANGE**

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PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
LEGAL DIVISION
**BEFORE THE STATE OFFICE OF
ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS**

STIPULATION AND SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

This Stipulation and Settlement Agreement (Stipulation) is entered into by the parties in this case, who are the Staff (Staff) of the Public Utility Commission of Texas (Commission) and Rolling Hills Water Service, Inc. (Rolling Hills or Applicant) through their duly authorized representatives (collectively, Signatories).

I. BACKGROUND

On March 31, 2015, The Commission received an Application from Rolling Hills for a water rate/tariff change. On May 5, 2015, Order No. 2 deemed the Application to be administrative complete and sufficient for filing. Rolling Hills filed on March 31, 2015 an affidavit attesting that notice was provided by mail to each customer or other affected party on or about March 30, 2015. On October 1, 2015 this proceeding was referred to the State Office of Administrative Hearings (SOAH). No other parties intervened in this proceeding.

The Signatories believe that a resolution of this docket is reasonable and in the public interest. The Signatories jointly request Commission approval of this Stipulation and entry of orders, findings of fact and conclusions of law consistent with the approval.

II. STIPULATION AND AGREEMENT

1. Agreement as to Tariff/Rate Changes

- a. **Retail Water Utility Rates.** The Signatories agree that Rolling Hills should be allowed to implement the retail water utility rates as proposed in its application and set out in Section 1.0 of the tariff included as Attachment A to this Stipulation.
- b. **Total Revenue Requirement.** The Signatories agree that Rolling Hills' Revenue Requirement for the next year is \$45,685.

- c. **Tariff Provisions.** The Signatories agree that Rolling Hills should be allowed to implement the other tariff provisions included in Attachment A to this Stipulation. The Signatories agree that Attachment A to this Stipulation should be the governing water utility rates, terms, treatments, and conditions for Rolling Hills.
2. **Proposed Order.** The Signatories jointly propose that the Commission issue a final order in the form attached as Attachment B. The Signatories submit the stipulated and agreed-upon Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law included in the proposed order in Attachment B for the Commission's adoption of and inclusion in a final order in this case implementing the terms of this Stipulation.


III. IMPLEMENTATION OF AGREEMENT

1. **Obligation to Support this Stipulation.** The Signatories will support this Stipulation before the Commission and will take reasonable steps to support expeditious entry of orders fully consistent with this Stipulation. This provision shall not preclude any party from taking action that is mandatory and nondiscretionary pursuant to a law enacted after the date this Stipulation is filed at the Commission.
2. **Effects of Stipulation**
 - a. The Stipulation does not adopt any particular methodology underlying the settlement rates or rate design reflected in the Stipulation.
 - b. The failure to litigate any specific issue in this docket does not waive any Signatory's rights to contest that issue in any other current or future proceeding. The failure to litigate an issue cannot be asserted as a defense or estoppel, or any similar argument, by or against any Signatory in any other proceeding.
 - c. The terms of this Stipulation may not be used either as an admission or concession of any sort or as evidence in any proceeding except to enforce the terms of this Stipulation. Oral or written statements made during the course of the settlement negotiations may not be used for any purposes other than as necessary to support the entry by the Commission of an order implementing this Stipulation. All oral or written statements made during the course of the settlement negotiations are governed by Tex. R. Evid. 408.

- d. The Signatories agree that this Stipulation is in the public interest. If the Commission does not accept this Stipulation as presented or enters an order inconsistent with any term of this Stipulation, any Signatory shall have the right to seek hearing on all issues, present evidence, and advance any positions it desires, as if it had not been a Signatory.
 - e. This Stipulation is binding on each of the Signatories only for the purpose of settling the issues as set forth herein and for no other purposes. It is acknowledged that a Signatory's support of the matters contained in this Stipulation may differ from the position taken or testimony presented by it in this proceeding or other proceedings. To the extent that there is a difference, a Signatory does not waive its position in any other proceedings. Because this is a stipulated resolution, no Signatory is under any obligation to take the same positions as set out in this Stipulation in other proceedings, whether those proceedings present the same or a different set of circumstances, except as may otherwise be explicitly provided in this Stipulation.
 - f. There are no third party beneficiaries of this Stipulation. Although this Stipulation represents a settlement among the Signatories with respect to the issues presented in this docket, this Stipulation is merely a settlement proposal submitted to the Commission, which has the authority to enter an order resolving these issues.
 - g. This Stipulation supersedes any prior written or oral agreement in this docket regarding the subject matter of this Stipulation.
 - h. Except to the extent that the Stipulation expressly governs a Signatory's rights and obligations for future periods, this Stipulation shall not be binding or precedential upon a Signatory outside this docket, and Signatories retain their rights to pursue relief to which they may be entitled in other proceedings.
- 3. Execution.** The Signatories agree that this Stipulation may be executed in multiple counterparts and filed with facsimile or computer image signatures.

Executed as shown below:

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF TEXAS

By: 

Alexander Petak

Attorney for Staff of the Public Utility Commission of Texas

Date: 4/14/16

ROLLING HILLS WATER SERVICE, INC.

By: 

Cherie Rodenburgh

Authorized Representative for Rolling Hills

Date: 4/3/16

ATTACHMENT A



WATER UTILITY TARIFF
Docket Number: 44600

Rolling Hills Water Service, Inc.
(Utility Name)

2522 Indian Gap
(Business Address)

Weatherford, Texas 76087
(City, State, Zip Code)

(817) 822-2963
(Area Code/Telephone)

This tariff is effective for utility operations under the following Certificate of Convenience and Necessity:

12724

This tariff is effective in the following counties:

Hood

This tariff is effective in the following cities or unincorporated towns (if any): N/A

This tariff is effective in the following subdivisions and public water systems:

Rolling Hills Shores Water System: PWS ID # 1110032

TABLE OF CONTENTS

The above utility lists the following sections of its tariff (if additional pages are needed for a section, all pages should be numbered consecutively):

SECTION 1.0 -- RATE SCHEDULE.....	2
SECTION 2.0 -- SERVICE RULES AND POLICIES	4
SECTION 3.0 -- EXTENSION POLICY	10

APPENDIX A -- DROUGHT CONTINGENCY PLAN

APPENDIX B -- SAMPLE SERVICE AGREEMENT

SECTION 1.0 - RATE SCHEDULE

Section 1.01 - Rates

<u>Meter Size</u>	<u>Monthly Base Rate</u>	<u>Gallage Charge</u>
5/8" or 3/4"	<u>\$44.95</u> (Includes <u>2,000</u> gallons)	<u>\$2.74</u> per 1,000 gallons

FORM OF PAYMENT: The utility will accept the following forms of payment:

Cash X, Check X, Money Order X, Other (specify)

THE UTILITY MAY REQUIRE EXACT CHANGE FOR PAYMENTS AND MAY REFUSE TO ACCEPT PAYMENTS MADE USING MORE THAN \$1.00 IN SMALL COINS. A WRITTEN RECEIPT WILL BE GIVEN FOR CASH PAYMENTS.

REGULATORY ASSESSMENT 1.0%
PUC RULES REQUIRE THE UTILITY TO COLLECT A FEE OF ONE PERCENT OF THE RETAIL MONTHLY BILL AND TO REMIT FEES TO THE TCEQ.

Section 1.02 - Miscellaneous Fees

TAP FEE \$350.00
TAP FEE COVERS THE UTILITY'S COSTS FOR MATERIALS AND LABOR TO INSTALL A STANDARD RESIDENTIAL 5/8" or 3/4" METER. AN ADDITIONAL FEE TO COVER UNIQUE COSTS IS PERMITTED IF LISTED ON THIS TARIFF.

TAP FEE (Unique costs) Actual Cost
FOR EXAMPLE, A ROAD BORE FOR CUSTOMERS OUTSIDE OF SUBDIVISIONS OR RESIDENTIAL AREAS.

TAP FEE (Large meter) Actual Cost
TAP FEE IS THE UTILITY'S ACTUAL COST FOR MATERIALS AND LABOR FOR METER SIZE INSTALLED.

METER RELOCATION FEE Actual Relocation Cost, Not to Exceed Tap Fee
THIS FEE MAY BE CHARGED IF A CUSTOMER REQUESTS THAT AN EXISTING METER BE RELOCATED.

METER TEST FEE \$25.00
THIS FEE WHICH SHOULD REFLECT THE UTILITY'S COST MAY BE CHARGED IF A CUSTOMER REQUESTS A SECOND METER TEST WITHIN A TWO-YEAR PERIOD AND THE TEST INDICATES THAT THE METER IS RECORDING ACCURATELY. THE FEE MAY NOT EXCEED \$25.

RECONNECTION FEE

THE RECONNECT FEE MUST BE PAID BEFORE SERVICE CAN BE RESTORED TO A CUSTOMER WHO HAS BEEN DISCONNECTED FOR THE FOLLOWING REASONS (OR OTHER REASONS LISTED UNDER SECTION 2.0 OF THIS TARIFF):

- a) Non-payment of bill (Maximum \$25.00)..... \$25.00
- b) Customer's request that service be disconnected \$25.00

TRANSFER FEE \$25.00
THE TRANSFER FEE WILL BE CHARGED FOR CHANGING AN ACCOUNT NAME AT THE SAME SERVICE LOCATION WHEN THE SERVICE IS NOT DISCONNECTED.

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SECTION 1.0 - RATE SCHEDULE (Continued)

LATE CHARGE (EITHER \$5.00 OR 10% OF THE BILL)\$5.00
TCEQ RULES ALLOW A ONE-TIME PENALTY TO BE CHARGED ON DELINQUENT BILLS. A LATE
CHARGE MAY NOT BE APPLIED TO ANY BALANCE TO WHICH THE PENALTY WAS APPLIED IN A
PREVIOUS BILLING.

RETURNED CHECK CHARGE\$25.00
RETURNED CHECK CHARGES MUST BE BASED ON THE UTILITY'S DOCUMENTABLE COST.

CUSTOMER DEPOSIT RESIDENTIAL (Maximum \$50)\$50.00

COMMERCIAL & NON-RESIDENTIAL DEPOSIT 1/6TH OF ESTIMATED ANNUAL BILL

GOVERNMENTAL TESTING, INSPECTION AND COSTS SURCHARGE:
WHEN AUTHORIZED IN WRITING BY PUC AND AFTER NOTICE TO CUSTOMERS, THE UTILITY MAY
INCREASE RATES TO RECOVER INCREASED COSTS FOR INSPECTION FEES AND WATER TESTING.
[P.U.C. Subst. R. 24.21(K)(2)]

LINE EXTENSION AND CONSTRUCTION CHARGES:
REFER TO SECTION 3.0--EXTENSION POLICY FOR TERMS, CONDITIONS, AND CHARGES WHEN NEW
CONSTRUCTION IS NECESSARY TO PROVIDE SERVICE.

SECTION 2.0 - SERVICE RULES AND POLICIES

The utility will have the most current Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUC or Commission rules relating to Water and Wastewater Utility regulations, available at its office for reference purposes. The Rules and this tariff shall be available for public inspection and reproduction at a reasonable cost. The latest Rules or Commission approved changes to the Rules supersede any rules or requirements in this tariff.

Section 2.01 - Application for Water Service

All applications for service will be made on the utility's standard application or contract form (attached in the Appendix to this tariff), will be signed by the applicant, any required fees (deposits, reconnect, tap, extension fees, etc. as applicable) will be paid and easements, if required, will be granted before service is provided by the utility. A separate application or contract will be made for each service location.

Section 2.02 - Refusal of Service

The utility may decline to serve an applicant until the applicant has complied with the regulations of the regulatory agencies (state and municipal regulations) and for the reasons outlined in the PUC Rules. In the event that the utility refuses to serve an applicant, the utility will inform the applicant in writing of the basis of its refusal. The utility is also required to inform the applicant that a complaint may be filed with the Commission.

Section 2.03 - Fees and Charges & Easements Required Before Service Can Be Connected

(A) Customer Deposits

If a residential applicant cannot establish credit to the satisfaction of the utility, the applicant may be required to pay a deposit as provided for in Section 1.0 of this tariff. The utility will keep records of the deposit and credit interest in accordance with PUC Rules.

Residential applicants 65 years of age or older may not be required to pay deposits unless the applicant has an outstanding account balance with the utility or another water or sewer utility which accrued within the last two years.

Nonresidential applicants who cannot establish credit to the satisfaction of the utility may be required to make a deposit that does not exceed an amount equivalent to one-sixth of the estimated annual billings.

Refund of deposit - If service is not connected, or after disconnection of service, the utility will promptly refund the customer's deposit plus accrued interest or the balance, if any, in excess of the unpaid bills for service furnished. The utility may refund the deposit at any time prior to termination of utility service but must refund the deposit plus interest for any customer who has paid 18 consecutive billings without being delinquent.

SECTION 2.0 - SERVICE RULES AND POLICIES (Continued)

(B) Tap or Reconnect Fees

A new customer requesting service at a location where service has not previously been provided must pay a tap fee as provided in Section 1.0. A customer requesting service where service has previously been provided must pay a reconnect fee as provided in Section 1.0. Any applicant or existing customer required to pay for any costs not specifically set forth in the rate schedule pages of this tariff shall be given a written explanation of such costs prior to request for payment and/or commencement of construction. If the applicant or existing customer does not believe that these costs are reasonable or necessary, the applicant or existing customer shall be informed of their right to appeal such costs to the PUC or such other regulatory authority having jurisdiction over the utility's rates in that portion of the utility's service area in which the applicant's or existing customer's property(ies) is located.

Fees in addition to the regular tap fee may be charged to cover unique costs not normally incurred as permitted by § 24.86(a)(1)(C). For example, a road bore for customers outside a subdivision or residential area could be considered a unique cost.

(C) Easement Requirement

Where recorded public utility easements on the service applicant's property do not exist or public road right-of-way easements are not available to access the applicant's property, the Utility may require the applicant to provide it with a permanent recorded public utility easement on and across the applicant's real property sufficient to provide service to that applicant. Such easement(s) shall not be used for the construction of production, storage, transmission or pressure facilities unless they are needed for adequate service to that applicant.

Section 2.04 - Utility Response to Applications for Service

After the applicant has met all the requirements, conditions and regulations for service, the utility will install tap, meter and utility cut-off valve and/or take all necessary actions to initiate service. The utility will serve each qualified applicant for service within 5 working days unless line extensions or new facilities are required. If construction is required to fill the order and if it cannot be completed within 30 days, the utility will provide the applicant with a written explanation of the construction required and an expected date of service.

Except for good cause where service has previously been provided, service will be reconnected within one working day after the applicant has met the requirements for reconnection.

Section 2.05 - Customer Responsibility

The customer will be responsible for furnishing and laying the necessary customer service pipe from the meter location to the place of consumption. Customers will not be allowed to use the utility's cutoff valve on the utility's side of the meter. Existing customers may install cutoff valves on their side of the meter and are encouraged to do so. All new customers must install and maintain a cutoff valve on their side of the meter.

SECTION 2.0 - SERVICE RULES AND POLICIES (Continued)

No direct connection between a public water supply system and any potential source of contamination or between a public water supply system and a private water source (ex. private well) will be allowed. A customer shall not connect, or allow any other person or party to connect, onto any water lines on his premises.

Section 2.06 - Customer Service Inspections

Applicants for new service connections or facilities which have undergone extensive plumbing modifications are required to furnish the utility a completed customer service inspection certificate. The inspection certificate shall certify that the establishment is in compliance with the TCEQ Rules and Regulations for Public Water Systems, § 290.46(j). The Utility is not required to perform these inspections for the applicant/customer, but will assist the applicant/customer in locating and obtaining the services of a certified inspector.

Section 2.07 - Back Flow Prevention Devices

All non-residential customers requiring a greater than 1" meter or any customer with irrigation or fire-fighting systems, must install backflow prevention devices which have been approved by the utility or its consulting engineers on each of their customer service lines.

The backflow assembly shall be tested upon installation by a recognized prevention assembly tester and certified to be operating within specifications. Backflow prevention assemblies which are installed to provide protection against high health hazards must be tested and certified to be operating within specifications at least annually by a recognized backflow prevention device tester. The maintenance and testing of the back flow assembly shall occur at the customer's expense.

No water connection shall be made to any establishment where an actual or potential contamination or system hazard exists without an approved air gap or mechanical backflow prevention assembly. The type of device or backflow prevention assembly required shall be determined by the specific potential hazard identified in Title 30 Texas Administrative Code (TAC) §290.47(i) Appendix I, Assessment of Hazards and Selection of Assemblies of the TCEQ Rules and Regulations for Public Water Systems.

Section 2.08 - Access to Customer's Premises

The utility will have the right of access to the customer's premises at all reasonable times for the purpose of installing, testing, inspecting or repairing water mains or other equipment used in connection with its provision of water service, or for the purpose of removing its property and disconnecting lines, and for all other purposes necessary to the operation of the utility system including inspecting the customer's plumbing for code, plumbing or tariff violations. The customer shall allow the utility and its personnel access to the customer's property to conduct any water quality tests or inspections required by law.

SECTION 2.0 - SERVICE RULES AND POLICIES (Continued)

Unless necessary to respond to equipment failure, leak or other condition creating an immediate threat to public health and safety or the continued provision of adequate utility service to others, such entry upon the customer's property shall be during normal business hours and the utility personnel will attempt to notify the customer that they will be working on the customer's property. The customer may require any utility representative, employee, contractor, or agent seeking to make such entry identify themselves, their affiliation with the utility, and the purpose of their entry.

All customers or service applicants shall provide access to meters and utility cutoff valves at all times reasonably necessary to conduct ordinary utility business and after normal business hours as needed to protect and preserve the integrity of the public drinking, water supply.

Section 2.09 - Meter Requirements, Readings, and Testing

One meter is required for each residential, commercial, or industrial connection. All water sold by the utility will be billed based on meter measurements. The utility will provide, install, own and maintain meters to measure amounts of water consumed by its customers.

Meters will be read at monthly intervals and as nearly as possible on the corresponding day of each monthly meter reading period unless otherwise authorized by the Commission.

Meter tests. The utility will, upon the request of a customer, and, if the customer so desires, in his or her presence or in that of his or her authorized representative, make without a test of the accuracy of the customer's meter. If the customer asks to observe the test, the test will be made during the utility's normal working hours at a time convenient to the customer. Whenever possible, the test will be made on the customer's premises, but may, at the utility's discretion, be made at the utility's testing facility. If within a period of two years the customer requests a new test, the utility will make the test, but if the meter is found to be within the accuracy standards established by the American Water Works Association, the utility will charge the customer a fee which reflects the cost to test the meter up to a maximum \$25 for a residential customer. Following the completion of any requested test, the utility will promptly advise the customer of the date of removal of the meter, the date of the test, the result of the test, and who made the test.

Section 2.10 - Billing

(A) Regular Billing

Bills from the utility will be mailed monthly unless otherwise authorized by the Commission. The due date of bills for utility service will be at least sixteen (16) days from the date of issuance. The postmark on the bill or, if there is no postmark on the bill, the recorded date of mailing by the utility will constitute proof of the date of issuance. Payment for utility service is delinquent if full payment, including late fees and the regulatory assessment, is not received at the utility or the utility's authorized payment agency by 5:00 p.m. on the due date. If the due date falls on a holiday or weekend, the due date for payment purposes will be the next workday after the due date.

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SECTION 2.0 - SERVICE RULES AND POLICIES (Continued)

(B) Late Fees

A late penalty of either \$5.00 or 10.0% will be charged on bills received after the due date. The penalty on delinquent bills will not be applied to any balance to which the penalty was applied in a previous billing. The utility must maintain a record of the date of mailing to charge the late penalty.

(C) Information on Bill

Each bill will provide all information required by the PUC Rules. For each of the systems it operates, the utility will maintain and note on the monthly bill a local or toll-free telephone number (or numbers) to which customers can direct questions about their utility service.

(D) Prorated Bills

If service is interrupted or seriously impaired for 24 consecutive hours or more, the utility will prorate the monthly base bill in proportion to the time service was not available to reflect this loss of service.

Section 2.11- Payments

All payments for utility service shall be delivered or mailed to the utility's business office. If the business office fails to receive payment prior to the time of noticed disconnection for non-payment of a delinquent account, service will be terminated as scheduled. Utility service crews shall not be allowed to collect payments on customer accounts in the field.

Payment of an account by any means that has been dishonored and returned by the payor or payee's bank, shall be deemed to be delinquent. All returned payments must be redeemed with cash or valid money order. If a customer has two returned payments within a twelve month period, the customer shall be required to pay a deposit if one has not already been paid.

Section 2.12 - Service Disconnection

(A) With Notice

Utility service may be disconnected if the bill has not been paid in full by the date listed on the termination notice. The termination date must be at least 10 days after notice is mailed or hand delivered. The utility is encouraged to offer a deferred payment plan to a customer who cannot pay an outstanding bill in full and is willing to pay the balance in reasonable installments. However, a customer's utility service may be disconnected if a bill has not been paid or a deferred payment agreement entered into within 26 days from the date of issuance of a bill and if proper notice of termination has been given.

Notice of termination must be a separate mailing or hand delivery in accordance with the PUC Rules.

(B) Without Notice

Utility service may also be disconnected without notice for reasons as described in the PUC Rules.

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SECTION 2.0 - SERVICE RULES AND POLICIES (Continued)

Section 2.13 - Reconnection of Service

Utility personnel must be available during normal business hours to accept payments on the day service is disconnected and the following day unless service was disconnected at the customer's request or due to a hazardous condition.

Service will be reconnected within 24 hours after the past due bill, reconnect fees and any other outstanding charges are paid or the conditions which caused service to be disconnected are corrected.

Section 2.14 - Service Interruptions

The utility will make all reasonable efforts to prevent interruptions or service. If interruptions occur, the utility will re-establish service within the shortest possible time. Except for momentary interruptions due to automatic equipment operations, the utility will keep a complete record of all interruptions, both emergency and scheduled and will notify the PUC and TCEQ in writing of any service interruptions affecting the entire system or any major division of the system lasting more than four hours. The notice will explain the cause of the interruptions.

Section 2.15 - Quality of Service

The utility will plan, furnish, and maintain production, treatment, storage, transmission, and distribution facilities of sufficient size and capacity to provide a continuous and adequate supply of water for all reasonable consumer uses. Unless otherwise authorized by the Commission, the utility will maintain facilities as described in the TCEQ Rules and Regulations for Public Water Systems.

Section 2.16 - Customer Complaints and Disputes

If a customer or applicant for service lodges a complaint, the utility will promptly make a suitable investigation and advise the complainant of the results. Service will not be disconnected pending completion of the investigation. If the complainant is dissatisfied with the utility's response, the utility must advise the complainant that he has recourse through the PUC complaint process. Pending resolution of a complaint, the commission may require continuation or restoration of service.

The utility will maintain a record of all complaints which shows the name and address of the complainant, the date and nature of the complaint and the adjustment or disposition thereof, for a period of two years after the final settlement of the complaint.

In the event of a dispute between a customer and a utility regarding any bill for utility service, the utility will conduct an investigation and report the results to the customer. If the dispute is not resolved, the utility will inform the customer that a complaint may be filed with the Commission.

Section 2.17 - Customer Liability

Customer shall be liable for any damage or injury to utility-owned property shown to be caused by the customer.

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SECTION 3.0 - EXTENSION POLICY

Section 3.01 - Standard Extension Requirements

Line Extension and Construction Charges. No contribution in aid of construction may be required of any customer except as provided for in this approved extension policy.

The customer will be given an itemized statement of the costs, options such as rebates to the customer, sharing of construction costs between the utility and the customer, or sharing of costs between the customer and other applicants prior to beginning construction.

Unless an exception is granted by the PUC, the residential service applicant shall not be required to pay for costs of main extensions greater than 2" in diameter for water distribution and pressure wastewater collection lines and 6" in diameter for gravity wastewater lines.

Exceptions may be granted by the PUC if:

- adequate service cannot be provided to the applicant using the maximum line sizes listed due to distance or elevation, in which case, it shall be the utility's burden to justify that a larger diameter pipe is required for adequate service;
- or larger minimum line sizes are required under subdivision platting requirements or building codes of municipalities within whose corporate limits or extraterritorial jurisdiction the point of use is located; or the residential service applicant is located outside the CCN service area.

If an exception is granted, the Utility shall establish a proportional cost plan for the specific extension or a rebate plan which may be limited to seven years to return the portion of the applicant's costs for oversizing as new customers are added to ensure that future applicants for service on the line pay at least as much as the initial service applicant.

The utility shall bear the cost of any over-sizing of water distribution lines or waste water collection lines necessary to serve other potential service applicants for customers in the immediate area.

For purposes of determining the costs that service applicants shall pay, commercial customers with service demands greater than residential customer demands in the certificated area, industrial, and wholesale customers shall be treated as developers. A service applicant requesting a one inch meter for a lawn sprinkler system to service a residential lot is not considered nonstandard service.

If an applicant requires service other than the standard service provided by the utility, such applicant will be required to pay all expenses incurred by the utility in excess of the expenses that would be incurred in providing the standard service and connection beyond 200 feet and throughout his property including the cost of all necessary transmission facilities. Residential customers will be charged the equivalent of the costs of extending service to their property from the nearest transmission or distribution line even if that line does not have adequate capacity to serve the customer.

SECTION 3.0 - EXTENSION POLICY (CONT.)

However, if the customer places unique, non-standard service demands upon the system, the customer may be charged the additional cost of extending service to and throughout their property, including the cost of all necessary transmission and storage facilities necessary to meet the service demands anticipated to be created by that property.

Section 3.02 - Costs Utilities Shall Bear

The utility will bear the full cost of any oversizing of water mains necessary to serve other customers in the immediate area. The individual residential customer shall not be charged for any additional production, storage, or treatment facilities. Contributions in aid of construction may not be required of individual residential customers for production, storage, treatment or transmission facilities unless otherwise approved by the PUC under this specific extension policy.

Within its certificate area, the utility will pay the cost of the first 200 feet of any water main or distribution line necessary to extend service to an individual residential customer within a platted subdivision. However, if the residential customer requesting service purchased the property after the developer was notified of the need to provide facilities to the utility, the utility may charge for the first 200 feet. The utility must also be able to document that the developer of the subdivision refused to provide facilities compatible with the utility's facilities in accordance with the utility's approved extension policy after receiving a written request from the utility.

The Utility is not required to extend service to any applicant outside of its certificated service area and will only do so under terms and conditions mutually agreeable to the Utility and the applicant, in compliance with PUC rules and policies, and upon extension of the Utility's certificated service area boundaries by the PUC.

Section 3.03 - Contributions in Aid of Construction

Developers may be required to provide contributions in aid of construction in amounts sufficient to furnish the development with all facilities necessary to provide for reasonable local demand requirements and to comply with TCEQ minimum design criteria for facilities used in the production, transmission, pumping, or treatment of water or TCEQ minimum requirements. For purposes of this subsection, a developer is one who subdivides or requests more than two meters on a piece of property. Commercial, industrial, and wholesale customers will be treated as developers.

Any applicant who places unique or non-standard service demands on the system may be required to provide contributions in aid of construction for the actual costs of any additional facilities required to maintain compliance with the TCEQ minimum design criteria for water production, treatment, pumping, storage and transmission.

Any service extension to a subdivision (recorded or unrecorded) may be subject to the provisions and restrictions of §24.86(d). When a developer wishes to extend the system to prepare to service multiple new connections, the charge shall be the cost of such extension, plus a pro-rata charge for facilities which must be committed to such extension compliant with the TCEQ minimum design criteria. As provided by §24.85(e)(3), for purposes of this section, commercial, industrial, and wholesale customers shall be treated as developers.

SECTION 3.0 - EXTENSION POLICY (CONT.)

A utility may only charge a developer standby fees for unrecovered costs of facilities committed to a developer's property under the following circumstances:

- Under a contract and only in accordance with the terms of the contract; or
- if service is not being provided to a lot or lots within two years after installation of facilities necessary to provide service to the lots has been completed and if the standby fees are included on the utility's approved tariff after a rate change application has been filed. The fees cannot be billed to the developer or collected until the standby fees have been approved by the PUC.
- For purposes of this section, a manufactured housing rental community can only be charged standby fees under a contract or if the utility installs the facilities necessary to provide individually metered service to each of the rental lots or spaces in the community.

Section 3.04 - Appealing Connection Costs

The imposition of additional extension costs or charges as provided by Sections 3.0 - Extension Policy of this tariff shall be subject to appeal as provided in this tariff, PUC rules, or the rules of such other regulatory authority as may have jurisdiction over the utility's rates and services. Any applicant required to pay for any costs not specifically set forth in the rate schedule pages of this tariff shall be given a written explanation of such costs prior to payment and/or commencement of construction. If the applicant does not believe that these costs are reasonable or necessary, the applicant shall be informed of the right to appeal such costs to the PUC or such other regulatory authority having jurisdiction over the utility's rates in that portion of the utility's service area in which the applicant's property(ies) is located.

Section 3.05 - Applying for Service

The Utility will provide a written service application form to the applicant for each request for service received by the Utility's business offices. A separate application shall be required for each potential service location if more than one service connection is desired by any individual applicant. Service application forms will be available at the Utility's business office during normal weekday business hours. Service applications will be sent by prepaid first class United States mail to the address provided by the applicant upon request. Completed applications should be returned by hand delivery in case there are questions which might delay fulfilling the service request. Completed service applications may be submitted by mail if hand delivery is not possible.

Where a new tap or service connection is required, the service applicant shall be required to submit a written service application and request that a tap be made. The tap request must be accompanied with a diagram, map, plat, or written metes and bounds description of precisely where the applicant desires each tap or service connection is to be made and, if necessary, where the meter is to be installed, along the applicant's property line. The actual point of connection and meter installation must be readily accessible to Utility personnel for inspection, servicing, and meter reading while being reasonably secure from damage by vehicles and mowers. If the Utility has more than one main adjacent to the service applicant's property, the tap or service connection will be made to the Utility's nearest service main with adequate capacity to service the applicant's full potential service demand. Beyond the initial 200 feet, the customer shall bear only the equivalent cost of extending from the nearest main. If the tap or service connection cannot be made at the applicant's desired location, it will be made at another location mutually acceptable to the applicant and the Utility. If no agreement on location can be made, the applicant may refer the matter to the PUC for resolution.

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SECTION 3.0 - EXTENSION POLICY (CONT.)

Section 3.06 - Qualified Service Applicant

A "qualified service applicant" is an applicant who has: (1) met all of the Utility's requirements for service contained in this tariff, PUC rules and/or PUC order, (2) has made payment or made arrangement for payment of tap fees, (3) has provided all necessary easements and rights-of-way necessary to provide service to the requested location, (4) delivered an executed customer service inspection certificate to the Utility, if applicable, and (5) has executed a customer service application for each location to which service is being requested.

The Utility shall serve each qualified service applicant within its certificated service area as soon as practical after receiving a completed service application. All service requests will be fulfilled within the time limits prescribed by PUC rules once the applicant has met all conditions precedent to achieving "qualified service applicant" status. If a service request cannot be fulfilled within the required period, the applicant shall be notified in writing of the delay, its cause and the anticipated date that service will be available. The PUC service dates shall not become applicable until the service applicant has met all conditions precedent to becoming a qualified service applicant as defined by PUC rules.

Section 3.07 - Developer Requirements

As a condition of service to a new subdivision, the Utility shall require a developer (as defined by PUC rule) to provide permanent recorded public utility easements as a condition of service to any location within the developer's property.

APPENDIX A -- DROUGHT CONTINGENCY PLAN
(Utility must attach copy of TCEQ approved Drought Contingency Plan)

APPENDIX B -- SAMPLE SERVICE AGREEMENT

From 30 TAC Chapter 290.47(b), Appendix B

SERVICE AGREEMENT

- I. **PURPOSE.** The NAME OF WATER SYSTEM is responsible for protecting the drinking water supply from contamination or pollution which could result from improper private water distribution system construction or configuration. The purpose of this service agreement is to notify each customer of the restrictions which are in place to provide this protection. The utility enforces these restrictions to ensure the public health and welfare. Each customer must sign this agreement before the NAME OF WATER SYSTEM will begin service. In addition, when service to an existing connection has been suspended or terminated, the water system will not re-establish service unless it has a signed copy of this agreement.
- II. **RESTRICTIONS.** The following unacceptable practices are prohibited by State regulations.
 - A. No direct connection between the public drinking water supply and a potential source of contamination is permitted. Potential sources of contamination shall be isolated from the public water system by an air-gap or an appropriate backflow prevention device.
 - B. No cross-connection between the public drinking water supply and a private water system is permitted. These potential threats to the public drinking water supply shall be eliminated at the service connection by the installation of an air-gap or a reduced pressure-zone backflow prevention device.
 - C. No connection which allows water to be returned to the public drinking water supply is permitted.
 - D. No pipe or pipe fitting which contains more than 8.0% lead may be used for the installation or repair of plumbing at any connection which provides water for human use.
 - E. No solder or flux which contains more than 0.2% lead can be used for the installation or repair of plumbing at any connection which provides water for human use.
- III. **SERVICE AGREEMENT.** The following are the terms of the service agreement between the NAME OF WATER SYSTEM (the Water System) and NAME OF CUSTOMER (the Customer).
 - A. The Water System will maintain a copy of this agreement as long as the Customer and/or the premises is connected to the Water System.
 - B. The Customer shall allow his property to be inspected for possible cross-connections and other potential contamination hazards. These inspections shall be conducted by the Water System or its designated agent prior to initiating

new water service; when there is reason to believe that cross-connections or other potential contamination hazards exist; or after any major changes to the private water distribution facilities. The inspections shall be conducted during the Water System's normal business hours.

- C. The Water System shall notify the Customer in writing of any cross-connection or other potential contamination hazard which has been identified during the initial inspection or the periodic reinspection.
- D. The Customer shall immediately remove or adequately isolate any potential cross-connections or other potential contamination hazards on his premises.
- E. The Customer shall, at his expense, properly install, test, and maintain any backflow prevention device required by the Water System. Copies of all testing and maintenance records shall be provided to the Water System.

IV. ENFORCEMENT. If the Customer fails to comply with the terms of the Service Agreement, the Water System shall, at its option, either terminate service or properly install, test, and maintain an appropriate backflow prevention device at the service connection. Any expenses associated with the enforcement of this agreement shall be billed to the Customer.

CUSTOMER'S SIGNATURE: _____

DATE: _____

ATTACHMENT B

PUC DOCKET NO. 44600
SOAH DOCKET NO. 473-16-0477.WS

APPLICATION OF ROLLING HILLS	§	BEFORE THE STATE OFFICE
WATER SERVICE, INC. FOR A	§	
RATE/TARIFF CHANGE	§	OF
	§	ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS

PROPOSED FINAL ORDER

This Order addresses the application of Rolling Hills Water Service, Inc. (Rolling Hills) for a water rate/tariff change. Public Utility Commission of Texas Staff (Staff) recommended approval of the application. The application is approved.

The Commission adopts the following findings of fact and conclusions of law:

I. FINDINGS OF FACT

Procedural History

1. On March 31, 2015, Rolling Hills filed an Application with the Public Utility Commission of Texas (Commission) for a water rate/tariff change in Hood County.
2. Rolling Hills holds Certificate of Convenience and Necessity (CCN) No. 12724.
3. On March 31, 2015, Rolling Hills filed an affidavit from Cherie Rodenburgh, certifying that notice of the proposed rate change was mailed to each customer and other affected persons on or about March 30, 2015.
4. On May 5, 2015, the administrative law judge (ALJ) filed Order No. 2, finding the application and notice administratively complete and sufficient for filing. Order No. 2 also permitted the rates to go into effect June 1, 2015, subject to a final Commission determination of reasonableness.
5. No comments or protests were filed in this case.
6. On October 1, 2015, the Commission issued an order referring this proceeding to the State Office of Administrative Hearings.
7. On November 24, 2015, parties requested that the case be abated.
8. The only parties to this case are Staff and Rolling Hills.
9. On April 14, 2016 the parties agreed that the rates in the application were reasonable.

10. On April 14, 2016 Commission Staff filed a memorandum in support of the rates in the application and amending the depreciation calculation.
11. On April 14, 2016 the parties filed a Joint Motion to Admit Evidence and Remand to the Commission for Review and Approval of Amended Application.
12. On _____, Order No. ____ was issued which admitted evidence and remanded this proceeding to the Commission.

Proposed Rates and Changes to the Revenue Requirement Calculations

13. Rolling Hills requests a total annual revenue requirement of \$46,579.
14. The rates proposed by Rolling Hills represent an annual revenue requirement increase of \$6,600.
15. The rates proposed by Rolling Hills are: a monthly base rate including 2,000 gallons of \$44.95 and \$2.74 for each additional 1,000 gallons.
16. The adjusted revenue requirement based on the Stipulation is \$45,684.

II. CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. Rolling Hills is a public utility as defined in Tex. Water Code § 13.002(23) (TWC).
2. Prior to September, 1, 2014, the TCEQ had jurisdiction to consider North Orange's Application for a rate increase pursuant to TWC §§ 13.181 and 13.187.
3. Proper notice of the Application was given by Rolling Hills as required by TWC § 13.187, 30 TAC §§ 291.22 and 291.28, and Tex. Gov't Code §§ 2001.051-.052. Rolling Hills demonstrated that an amendment to its CCN No. 12724 is necessary for the service, accommodation, convenience, or safety of the public, as required under TWC § 13.246(b) and 16 TAC § 24.102(c).
4. This docket was processed in accordance with the requirements of the TWC and Commission rules.
5. This docket contains no remaining contested issues of fact or law.
6. The application as amended results in just and reasonable rates and terms and conditions. The rates are not unreasonably discriminatory, preferential, or prejudicial.

III. ORDERING PARAGRAPHS

In accordance with these findings of fact and conclusions of law, the Commission issues the following order:

1. Rolling Hills' application for authority to changes its rates and tariff is approved.
2. The tariff implementing the rates as provided with this Order as Attachment 1 is approved.
3. All other motions, requests for entry of specific findings of fact or conclusions of law, and any other requests for general or specific relief, if not expressly granted herein, are denied.