



Control Number: 44809



Item Number: 30

Addendum StartPage: 0

APPLICATION OF QUADVEST, L.P.
FOR A RATE/TARIFF CHANGE

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PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

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PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
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**COMMISSION STAFF'S REQUEST FOR REFERRAL TO THE STATE OFFICE OF
ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS**

COMES NOW the Staff (Staff) of the Public Utility Commission of Texas (Commission), representing the public interest, and files this Request for Referral to the State Office of Administrative Hearings. In support thereof, Staff shows the following:

I. BACKGROUND

On June 5, 2015, Quadvest, LP (Quadvest or Applicant) filed with the Public Utility Commission of Texas (Commission) an application for a rate/tariff change (Application) within the counties of Aransas Pass, Brazoria, Fort Bend, Harris, Jackson, Liberty, Matagorda, Montgomery, Walker and Waller and within the city of Richmond. Quadvest requests approval of the change in rates because it needs additional revenue to eliminate a present earnings deficiency. Quadvest proposed two phases of rate increases; one for new facilities already placed in service, the second for new facilities that will be placed in service. The effective date for the first phase of the proposed rate change is August 8, 2015. The effective date for the second phase of the proposed rate change is January 1, 2016.

Staff filed a recommendation on July 31, 2015 recommending that the Application be deemed administratively complete. Order No. 4, issued August 4, 2015, deemed the Application administratively complete and allowed Staff until November 23, 2015 to request a hearing or make a final recommendation on the Application. Order No. 5, issued on November 24, 2015 extended this deadline to December 4, 2015. The Commission has received 11 letters of protest and comments in this case. Staff now files this Request for Referral to the State Office of Administrative Hearings (SOAH) with notice instructions and attached sample notice.

II. REQUEST FOR REFERRAL TO SOAH

Pursuant to 16 TAC § 24.28(1)¹, the Commission may set the matter for hearing on its own motion at any time within 120 days after the effective date of the rate change. Order No. 4, issued on August 4, 2015, established the effective date as August 8, 2015. The 120 day deadline is December 7, 2015. Staff requests referral to SOAH for an evidentiary hearing on its own motion in the public interest.

Staff has contacted Quadvest and both parties agreed on an available date for a prehearing conference. Accordingly, Staff recommends that a prehearing conference be scheduled on February 2, 2016 at 10:00 a.m. to give Quadvest's ratepayers adequate time to receive notice and prepare for the prehearing conference, should they wish to participate. Staff further recommends that Quadvest issue notice of the prehearing conference to its ratepayers in the format of the attached sample notice no later than January 14, 2016 and that proof of notice be provided to the Commission by January 19, 2016.

III. CONCLUSION

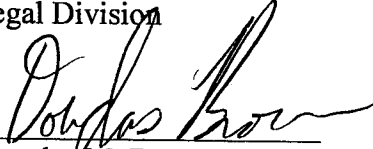
Staff respectfully requests the issuance of an order consistent with the above request.

¹ From the section in effect from Sept. 1, 2014 and at the time of filing of this application. This section is also found in the updated TAC, 16 TAC § 24.28(c)(1) effective Sept. 13, 2015.

Respectfully Submitted,

Margaret Uhlig Pemberton
Division Director
Legal Division

Stephen Mack
Managing Attorney
Legal Division

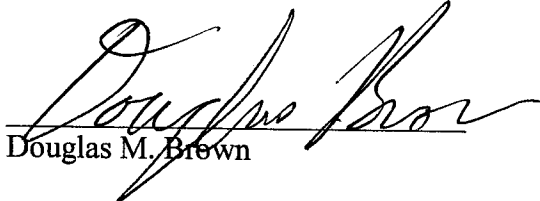


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DOCKET NO. 44809

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that a copy of this document will be served on all parties of record December 4, 2015, in accordance with 16 TAC § 22.74.



Douglas M. Brown

Donna L. Nelson
Chairman

Rick Perry
Governor



Kenneth W. Anderson, Jr.
Commissioner

Brandy D. Marty
Commissioner

Brian H. Lloyd
Executive Director

Public Utility Commission of Texas

NOTICE OF PREHEARING CONFERENCE

Quadvest, L.P.

SOAH Docket No. [SOAH ####-##-#### to be Determined]

PUC Docket No. 44809

Application

Quadvest, L.P. has applied to the Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUC) to change its water and sewer rate/tariff effective August 8, 2015 for its service area located in the counties of Aransas Pass, Brazoria, Fort Bend, Harris, Jackson, Liberty, Matagorda, Montgomery, Walker and Waller and within the city of Richmond, Texas (Certificate of Convenience and Necessity No. 11612).

Prehearing Conference

The State Office of Administrative Hearings (SOAH) will conduct a prehearing conference on this application on:

February 2, 2016 at 10:00 a.m.
William P. Clements Building
300 W. 15th Street, Suite # 408
Austin, Texas 78701-1649

The purpose of a prehearing conference is to name the parties, establish a procedural schedule for the remainder of the proceeding, allow an opportunity for settlement discussions, and to address other matters as determined by the judge. The evidentiary phase of the proceeding will be similar to a civil trial in state district court. The prehearing conference will be conducted in accordance with Chapter 2001 of the Texas Government Code; Chapter 13 of the Texas Water Code; the PUC's Substantive Rules, including Title 16 of the Texas Administrative Code (TAC) Chapter 24; and the PUC's Procedural Rules, including 16 TAC Chapter 22. More information regarding the PUC's rules and procedures can be found at <http://www.puc.texas.gov>.

Persons with disabilities who plan to attend this prehearing conference and who need special accommodations at the prehearing conference should call the SOAH Docketing Department at 512-475-3445, at least one week prior to the prehearing conference. For more information on SOAH, you may visit <http://www.soah.state.tx.us> or email: questions@soah.state.tx.us.



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