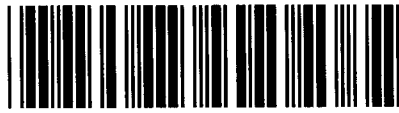


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**SOAH DOCKET NO. 473-16-1848.WS
PUC DOCKET NO. 44809**

**APPLICATION OF
QUADVEST, LP
FOR RATE/TARIFF CHANGE**

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BEFORE THE STATE OFFICE

2016 JAN 15 PM 2:55

ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS

**SOAH ORDER NO. 1
JURISDICTION, NOTICE OF PREHEARING CONFERENCE,
AND GENERAL PROCEDURES**

On June 5, 2015, Quadvest, LP filed an application (Application) with the Public Utility Commission of Texas (Commission) for a rate/tariff change in Aransas, Brazoria, Fort Bend, Harris, Jackson, Liberty, Matagorda, Montgomery, Walker, and Waller Counties and within the City of Richmond. Quadvest requests approval of the change in rates in two phases of rate increases. The effective date for the first phase of the proposed rate change is August 8, 2015, and the effective date for the second phase of the proposed rate change is January 1, 2016.

The Commission has received seven letters protesting the proposed rate change. On December 4, 2015, Commission Staff filed a request for referral to the State Office of Administrative Hearing (SOAH). On January 12, 2016, the Commission referred this matter to SOAH and requested the assignment of an Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) to conduct a hearing and issue a proposal for decision, if necessary.

I. JURISDICTION

Chapter 13 of the Texas Water Code vests jurisdiction over this matter in the Commission. Pursuant to chapter 2003 of the Texas Government Code, SOAH has jurisdiction over all matters relating to the conduct of a hearing in this matter.

II. NOTICE OF PREHEARING CONFERENCE

The ALJ will hold a prehearing conference at the following date, time, and place:

February 2, 2016, at 10:00 a.m.
State Office of Administrative Hearings
300 W. 15th Street, Fourth Floor
Austin, Texas

The ALJ may discuss the following matters at the February 2, 2016 prehearing conference:

- (1) Motions and other preliminary matters related to the proceeding, including notice, discovery, and procedural schedules;
- (2) Settlement of the case, or clarification and simplification of the issues;
- (3) The necessity or desirability of amended pleadings;
- (4) The possibility of obtaining stipulations that would avoid the unnecessary introduction of evidence;
- (5) Evidentiary matters;
- (6) The specific procedures to be followed at the hearing;
- (7) The scheduling of the hearing on the merits; and
- (8) Any other matters as may assist in the disposition of the proceeding in a fair and efficient manner.

III. GENERAL PROCEDURES

The Commission's procedural rules govern this proceeding. *See* 16 Tex. Admin. Code ch. 22. The procedural rules may be found at the Commission's website, www.puc.texas.gov. Parties are expected to know these procedures and comply with them fully.

A. Filing

The procedures for the filing of pleadings and other documents are set out in 16 Texas Administrative Code, chapter 22, subchapter E of the Commission's procedural rules. Pleadings and other documents shall be deemed filed when the proper number of legible copies is presented to the Commission's filing clerk for filing. **All pleadings must contain both the SOAH and PUC docket numbers to allow for efficient processing.**

B. Service

As stated above, all documents filed in this case must be filed at the Commission. When a party files a document with the Commission, that party is required to serve or give a copy of that document to every other party. Attached to this order is a service list for the parties' convenience.

Parties may wish to provide an email address for receiving orders from the ALJ. If so, go to SOAH's website at www.soah.texas.gov and click on "Request Email Service" and complete a short form. The service list will be updated as necessary.

C. Motions and Responses to Motions and Other Pleadings


Before filing a motion or a request for relief, the party filing the motion must contact the other parties to determine if the parties agree to or oppose the motion. The motion must state the parties' positions on the requested relief.

Unless otherwise specified, responses to a motion or another pleading must be filed within **five working days** from receipt of the pleading to which the response is made. Such responsive pleadings shall state the date of receipt of the original pleading. Failure to file a timely response will be considered acquiescence to the relief requested.

D. Discovery

Discovery may begin immediately and is governed by the Commission's procedural rules at 16 Texas Administrative Code, chapter 22, subchapter H. All discovery requests and responses shall be filed with the Commission in accordance with its procedural rules. Discovery requests and responses are not filed with SOAH.

SIGNED January 15, 2016.



**KERRIE JO QUALTROUGH
ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE
STATE OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS**