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**APPLICATION OF SUNSET WATER, §
LLC FOR A RATE/TARIFF CHANGE §
§**

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

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

I. BACKGROUND

On June 16, 2015, Sunset Water, LLC (Sunset or Applicant) filed an application (Application) with the Commission for a rate/tariff change within Moore County. Sunset requests approval of a rate change because the Applicant asserts that the water system expenses exceed revenues. Notice of rate change was provided to the affected customers by the Applicant on June 12, 2015. The noticed effective date for proposed rate change is August 15, 2015.

Order No. 1, issued June 18, 2015 allowed Staff until July 16, 2015 to file a recommendation on sufficiency. Staff filed a recommendation on July 16, 2015 recommending that the application be deemed administratively complete. Order No. 2, issued July 16, 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. On June 30, 2015 and July 21, 2015, a number of Sunset's ratepayers filed two separate protest letters signed by a total of thirty-six of the Applicant's customers who are requesting a public hearing. This pleading is timely filed.

II. REQUEST FOR REFERRAL TO SOAH

The deadline for ratepayers to protest the rates is November 13, 2015. Staff has reviewed the hearing requests filed by the ratepayers and recommends that the hearing requests meet the requirements of 16 TAC § 24.27. Pursuant to 16 TAC § 24.27(c), 1,000 or 10%, whichever is less, of the affected ratepayers must sign the Petition protesting an increase in water rates. Additionally, 16 TAC § 24.27(a) requires the petition contain a clear and concise statement that the petition is an appeal of a specific rate increase, the date of the rate increase, and the name, telephone number,

and street address of each signing ratepayer. The hearing requestors satisfied these requirements. Further, Staff requests referral to SOAH for an evidentiary hearing on its own motion in the public interest.

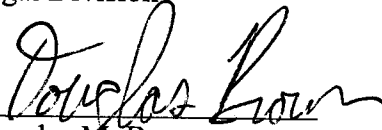
III. CONCLUSION

Staff respectfully requests the entry of an order consistent with the above recommendation.

Respectfully Submitted,

Margaret Uhlig Pemberton
Division Director
Legal Division

Stephen Mack
Managing Attorney
Legal Division

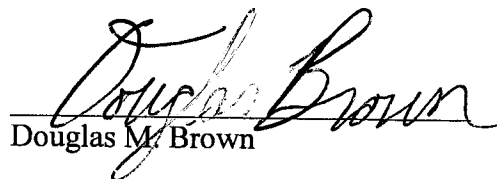


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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that a copy of this document will be served on all parties of record September 2, 2015, in accordance with 16 TAC § 22.74.



Douglas M. Brown