

Control Number: 44875



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August 24, 2015

Mr. Fred Bednarski
Public Utility Commission of Texas
Water Utilities Division
1701 N Congress PO Box 13326
Austin, Texas 78711-3326

Re:

PUC DOCKET NO. 44875; Application of Aqua Texas, Inc. d/b/a Aqua Texas to Amend its Certificates of Convenience and Necessity in Montgomery County ("Application")

Dear Fred:

Commission Staff has requested that Aqua Texas explain what its cost will be to develop and provide water and sewer utility service to the proposed CCN amendment area in the above-referenced application, including how Aqua Texas plans on financing or paying for necessary improvements. This letter is Aqua Texas' effort to present that information for the first two years of the planned development.

Aqua Texas is an investor owned utility that serves thousands of customers throughout Texas. It is a subsidiary of a publicly traded New York Stock Exchange company called Aqua America, Inc. with subsidiaries in several other jurisdictions. Combined, Aqua America, Inc. and its subsidiary companies serve an estimated three million people. Excerpts from the Aqua America, Inc. 2014 Annual Report, which included financial statements incorporating Aqua Texas data, were filed with the pending CCN application and we understand Commission Staff has located the complete report online. This document includes information that evidences the Applicant's long term strength and stability.

This CCN Application is for a new single family housing development project in Montgomery County within land that presently does not have water or wastewater service. If the requested area is added to Aqua Texas' CCN, Aqua Texas will utilize its existing Southeast Region water and sewer rates/tariffs for the customers in this new development. Aqua Texas has the financial ability through customer collections and infusions of capital from lenders, as well as capital contributions from its parent, Aqua America, Inc., to meet operations and maintenance expense needs and make any required improvements necessary to meet TCEQ and PUC service requirements.

Aqua Texas' parent company routinely advances capital for construction projects like those outlined below pursuant to an annualized budgeting process. Aqua Texas' management has agreed in concept to advance capital funds to construct the water and wastewater treatment plants as the development project progresses. Aqua Texas also plans to reimburse Developer for line costs as connections come on line.

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The land developer for the project (the "Developer") is an affiliate of Pulte Homes, a national home builder. The Developer plans to complete build out of the project over three years, in eight sections. Section One, which is already under construction, will comprise 33 LUEs, with lot takedowns beginning in January 2016. Section Two will have 52 LUEs, with lot takedowns beginning in May 2016. Section Three will have 107 LUEs with lot takedowns beginning in July 2016. The remaining sections will not begin until sales in the first three sections are completed, with start dates presently anticipated in 2017. Ultimate completion of the project, including all sections, is not contemplated until 2018. At final build out, the project will serve 554 single family dwellings (NOTE: Developer has lowered this figure from 576 since the initial Application filing; an amenity center is still planned in addition to residential connections).

To provide water utility service for this development, Aqua Texas intends to utilize its existing Old Egypt water system. Section One will be served through the currently available capacity of the Old Egypt facilities. Based on current system capacity, the Old Egypt system can also serve a portion of Section Two of the Project. When additional capacity is required Aqua Texas intends to drill a new water well on one of its current plant sites, adding capacity for an additional 249 connections, which will cover water needs through Section Six of the Project. It is estimated that the cost for this new well will be approximately \$200,000; and the funds for this facility will come from Aqua Texas' general capital sources and Aqua America, Inc. At the beginning of Section Seven, Aqua Texas will drill another well and construct additional ground storage, which is estimated to cost \$400,000 on a new plant site to be contributed by the Developer. The water line infrastructure costs estimated at \$1,108,000 for all eight sections of the project will be paid by the Developer; and the lines will be contributed to Aqua Texas. Aqua Texas will reimburse the Developer \$2,500 per water LUE, not to exceed the value of the contributed lines.

In providing wastewater services, Aqua Texas will serve the area using available capacity from its Old Egypt Wastewater Treatment plant, which was recently expanded. This plant currently has capacity to serve the first five sections of the Project without the need for additional plant expansion. Approximately two years into the project, Aqua will expand the Old Egypt plant again to serve this project and other projects in the vicinity. It is anticipated that this expansion will be on line by the end of Section Five, which is estimated to be in early 2018. Funds for the anticipated expansion costs of approximately \$500,000 will come from Aqua Texas' general capital sources and Aqua America, Inc. The service line infrastructure cost for lines, force mains, and lift stations for all eight sections is estimated at \$3,445,000. The Developer will pay all such costs and contribute the lines to Aqua Texas. Aqua Texas will reimburse the Developer \$2,500 per wastewater LUE, not to exceed the value of the contributed lines.

Based on the current Aqua Texas Southeast Region rate tariff, the average combined water and wastewater bill is approximately \$128 per month. This generates \$230,000 per year after the completion of Sections One, Two and Three (roughly December, 2016); \$500,000 per year after the completion of Sections Four and Five (roughly September, 2017); and \$850,000 at

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full build out toward Aqua Texas' Southeast Region rate collection revenue. The chart attached to this letter shows projected capital outlays, reimbursements, and revenues for the project.

If additional information is needed to satisfy the Commission Staff's information request, please let us know.

Sincerely,

Glen E. Lewis

Enclosures

Monthly Revenue	Aqua Texas Capital Outlay	Aqua Capital Project	Develop Reimb by Agua	Capital Outlay	Capital Project	Total Lue	LUE	Months	Sewer	Monthly	Aqua Texas Capital Outlay	Aqua Capital Project	Develop Reimb by Agua	Develop Capital Outlay	Develop Capital Project	Total Lue	Added	Months
63.80	0		0	263,000	force main	0	0	Nov-15		64.20			0	130,000	line extension	٥		Nov-15
0	0		0	182,000	main trunk lines	0	٥	Dec-15		0	0		0	150,000	main trunk lines	0	0	Dec-15
319	0		12,500	106,000	model park lines	O1	51	Jan-16		321	0		12,500	45,000	model park lines	υ,	5	Jan-16
766	0		17,500	750,000	interior lift station	12	7	Feb-16		770	0		17,500			12	7	Feb-16
1,212	0		17,500			19	7	Mar-16		1,220	0		17,500			19	7	Mar-16
1,659	0		17,500			26	7	Apr-16		1,669	0		17,500			26	7	Apr-16
2,169	0		20,000	218,000	estates 1 - 52 lots	34	8	May-16		2,183	200,000	additional water well	20,000	90,000	estates 1 - 52 lots	34	8	May-16
2,680	0		20,000			42	8	Jun-16		2,696	0		20,000			42	&	Jun-16
3,956	0		50,000	436,000	classics 1 - 107 lots	62	20	Jul-16		3,980	0		50,000	150,000	classics 1 - 107 lots	62	20	Jul-16
5,232	0		50,000			82	20	Aug-16		5,264	0		50,000			82	20	Aug-16
6,508	0		50,000			102	20	Sep-16		6,548	0		50,000			102	20	Sep-16
7,784	0		50,000		<u></u>	122	20	Oct-16		7,832	0		50,000			122	20	Oct-16
8,804	0		40,000			138	16	Nov-16		8,860	0		40,000			138	16	Nov-16
9,570	0		30,000			150	12	Dec-16		9,630	0		30,000			150	12	Dec-16
10,336	0		30,000			162	12	Jan-17		10,400	0		30,000			162	12	Jan-17
11,612	500,000	stp expansion	50,000	240,000	estates 2 - o	182	20	Feb-17		11,684	400,000	additional water plant	50,000	104,000	estates 2 - 51 lots	182	20	Feb-17
13,653	0		80,000	290,000	classics 2 - 83 lots	214	32	Mar-17		13.739	80,000		80,000	100,000	classics 2 . 83 lots	214	32	Mar-17
14,929	0		50,000			234	\vdash	Apr-17		15.023	50,000		50,000			234	20	Apr-17
16,205	0		50,000			254	20	May-17		16.307	50,000		50,000			254	20	May-17
17,481	0		50,000			274	20	Jun-17]	17.591	50,000		50,000			274	20	Jun-17
18,757	0		50,000			294	20	Jul-17	30	18.875	50,000		50,000			294		Jul-17
20,033	0		50,000			314	20	Aug-17	10,100	20 159	50,000		50,000			314	20	Aug-17
20,799	0		30,000	450,000	classics 3 128 lots	326	12	Sep-17	10,020	20 929	30,000		30,000	153,000	classics 3 128 lots	326	12	Sep-17
21,564	0		30,000	510,000	estates 3,4 - 100 lots	338		Oct-17	11,700	21 700	30,000		30,000			338	12	Oct-17
22,330	0		30,000			350	12	Nov-17	22,33	22 470	30,000		30,000			350	12	Nov-17
23,096	0		30,000			362	12	Dec-17	004.04	23.240	30,000		30,000			362	12	Dec-17
261,452	500,000		905,000	3,445,000		362	362	Totals	200,002	263.002	1,050,000		905,000	922,000		362	362	Totals