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APPLICATION OF MONARCH

BEFORE THE STATE OFFICE CHMISSION

§ UTILITIES I, L.P. TO CHANGE RATES §

OF

FOR WATER AND SEWER SERVICE

**ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS** 

# MONARCH UTILITIES I, L.P.'S OBJECTIONS TO TEXAS AGAINST MONOPOLIES' EXCESSIVE RATES FIRST REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

Monarch Utilities I, L.P. ("Monarch") files these its Objections to Texas Against Monopolies' Excessive Rates' ("TAMER") First Requests for Information ("RFIs"), and respectfully shows as follows:

#### I. PROCEDURAL HISTORY

TAMER served its First RFIs to Monarch on April 28, 2016. Pursuant to Title 16 Tex. Admin. Code ("TAC") § 22.144(d), these objections are timely filed. On May 3, 2016, counsel for Monarch made a good-faith attempt at contacting counsel for TAMER to address these objections, but was unable to confer because TAMER's counsel is on vacation. Thus, pursuant to 16 TAC § 22.144(d), Monarch has materially complied with all procedural prerequisites to the filing of these objections.

#### II. **OBJECTIONS**

- TAMER RFI 1-23: Explain the impact on your financial strength if 50% of the gain in the sale of the Blue Mound assets were allocated to ratepayers.
- TAMER RFI 1-24: If it is your position that your customers benefit or benefitted by the fact that, with the sale of the Blue Mounds assets, you avoided the repairs and other costs identified on Attachment RLK 4, please explain the basis for that position, and itemize the repairs and their projected costs.
- TAMER RFI 1-25: Admit that the water quality provide by you to the Blue Mound customers was lower than it would have been since 2010, if you had made all the investments in the items listed with costs in Attachment RLK-4.

### Objection:

Monarch objects to the improper form of these requests. These requests are vague and improperly request Monarch to speculate on hypothetical questions. "Discovery" may be

defined to be the disclosure of facts, deeds, instruments, documents, or other things that are within the exclusive possession of one party and that are necessary to the party seeking discovery as a part of an action pending or contemplated by the latter or as evidence of his or her rights in such proceedings. *B. F. Avery & Sons Plow Co. v. Mayfield*, 111 S.W.2d 1134 (Tex. Civ. App.—Fort Worth 1937), writ dismissed. By seeking information that does not exist or that cannot be reasonably deduced from facts or materials in the possession of Monarch, TAMER has exceeded the intent and scope of discovery.

### III. PRAYER

WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, Monarch requests these objections be sustained. Monarch also requests any other relief to which it may show itself justly entitled.

Respectfully submitted,

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ATTORNEYS FOR MONARCH UTILITIES I, LP

# **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that on this 3rd day of May, 2016, a true and correct copy of the foregoing document has been hand-delivered., sent via facsimile, e-mail, or first class mail to all parties of record.

WILLIAM A. FAULK, III