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PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
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SOAH DOCKET NO. 473-16-2751
PUC DOCKET NO. 45624

APPLICATION OF THE CITY OF	§	BEFORE THE STATE OFFICE
GARLAND TO AMEND A	§	
CERTIFICATE OF CONVENIENCE	§	
AND NECESSITY FOR THE RUSK TO	§	OF
PANOLA DOUBLE-CIRCUIT 345-KV	§	
TRANSMISSION LINE IN RUSK AND	§	
PANOLA COUNTIES	§	ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS

**SOAH ORDER NO. 3
SUSPENDING TRADITIONAL SERVICE**

On March 29, 2016, The City of Garland (Garland) filed a motion seeking an order suspending service under the applicable rules and allowing parties to file documents with the Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUC) without having to serve copies on all other parties. The motion seeks an order allowing service to be affected by having each party log onto the PUC Interchange (Interchange) website to determine what documents, motions, pleadings and discovery have been filed. Garland asks for this relief based on the large number of affected landowners who have intervened in this proceeding.

No party having filed any opposition to this motion, and because there are a large number of intervenors, the Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) finds merit in Garland's motion and hereby orders that traditional service requirements be modified in this case.¹

As previously stated, all documents *filed* in this case must be filed at the PUC. Normally, when a party files a document with the PUC, that party is required to serve or give a copy of that document to every other party in the case. That process can be burdensome and expensive. **This traditional service, however, will not be required in this case.** What that means is that, except as explained below, when parties file a document with the PUC in this case, they are not required to serve other parties directly – except for those parties who have been granted an exception by the ALJ (as described below). **Parties who have been granted an exception for good cause**

¹ 16 Tex. Admin Code § 22.5

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must still be served by mail or fax at the address or number provided on the service list for such parties.

All documents filed in this case by any party or by the ALJ can be viewed and downloaded on the Interchange website found at <http://interchange.puc.texas.gov>. From the Interchange website, parties can click on "Filings Search" and type in the **control number 45624** and press "enter." This will lead to a screen that lists all of the documents filed in this case. The documents can be viewed and downloaded by clicking on the document number. All parties are required to log onto the Interchange website as often as possible to see what has been filed and respond, if necessary.²

The ALJ strongly recommends that parties with an email address sign up for the PUC's Filings Notification System to receive automatic email notices when documents are filed in this case. A party can sign up for the Filing Notification System by (1) going to the PUC's website (www.puc.texas.gov), (2) clicking on the tab that says "Filings," (3) clicking on the link that says "Filings Notification System," and then (4) following the instructions provided to register with the system.

Exceptions to the suspension of traditional service:

1. Parties with no Internet access. A party that is not represented by an attorney may file a "motion for good cause to use traditional service." Parties that do not have access to the Internet will be granted a good-cause exception. **Motions for an exception should be filed no later than April 15, 2016.**

If a motion for good cause to use traditional service is granted, that party's contact information will be retained on or added to a traditional service list, which is a mailing list of all the parties who have been granted the right to use and be served by traditional service methods.

2. Direct Response to Affected Parties. Any discovery request, response to a discovery request, motion, or response to a motion must be served on the party or

² For most intervenors, there are only two matters to be concerned with before the hearing on the merits (1) sending out or responding to discovery requests; and (2) meeting the deadline to file testimony or a statement of position.

parties that are the target or subject of the discovery request, discovery response, motion, or response. Service of these documents can be accomplished by email, or under the traditional method of service if no email is available. For example, a discovery request addressed to Garland would be filed at the PUC and “served” directly on Garland’s counsel (in all probability by email). All other parties would be apprised of the filing (and “served”) by inspecting the Interchange. However, if the emailing party is notified that there is a problem with an email delivery, the emailing party will immediately provide the document (i.e., serve it) by standard mail.

3. Confidential or Highly Sensitive Protected Material. For any party receiving service via the Interchange website or email service, any confidential or highly sensitive protected materials must continue to be provided under the traditional method of service as set forth under the applicable PUC procedural rule, 16 Texas Administrative Code § 22.74.

SOAH’s orders will continue to be provided to the parties by traditional service methods. As a result, **parties are strongly encouraged to provide an email address to SOAH to be served with notice of SOAH’s orders in this case by email.** To do so, a party must go to SOAH’s website, <http://soah.state.tx.us> and click on “Request Service by Email” and complete a short form. The service list will also be updated with the party’s email address.

Only one address per party will be included on the official service list maintained by SOAH. Corrections to the service list should be directed to the ALJ’s assistant, Michael Martinez, by email at michael.martinez@soah.texas.gov.

SIGNED April 6, 2016.



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STYLE/CASE: **CITY OF GARLAND**

SOAH DOCKET NUMBER: **473-16-2751**

REFERRING AGENCY CASE: **45624**

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