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**SOAH DOCKET NO. 473-16-2751
PUC DOCKET NO. 45624**

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PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
FILING CLERK

APPLICATION OF THE CITY OF GARLAND TO AMEND A CERTIFICATE OF CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY FOR THE RUSK TO PANOLA DOUBLE-CIRCUIT 345-KV TRANSMISSION LINE IN RUSK AND PANOLA COUNTIES	§ § § § § § §	BEFORE THE STATE OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS
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**SOAH ORDER NO. 1
FILING DESCRIPTION; JURISDICTION; AND
NOTICE OF PREHEARING CONFERENCE**

The City of Garland (Garland) filed an application with the Public Utility Commission of Texas (Commission) on February 25, 2016, to amend its certificate of convenience and necessity (CCN) for the proposed Rusk to Panola double-circuit 345kV transmission line in Rusk and Panola Counties (Garland Project). The Garland Project is a facility to be constructed under an interconnection agreement appended to the offer of settlement approved by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) in a final order issued in FERC Docket No. TX11-01-001. The Garland Project will interconnect the new Rusk Switching Station in Rusk County to the new Panola Switching Station in Panola County at the Texas-Louisiana border. The Rusk Station will be interconnected with the ERCOT grid, and the Panola Station will be interconnected to a new high-voltage direct current (HVDC) converter station to be owned by Southern Cross Transmission LLC adjacent to the Panola Station across the border in Louisiana. The final order in FERC Docket No. TX11-01-001 requires Garland to provide the interconnection in accordance with the agreements attached to the offer of settlement approved by the order. FERC found that the interconnection is in the public interest and determined it would not cause any ERCOT utility or other utility that is not already a public utility under the Federal Power Act (FPA) to become a public utility under the FPA.

The Application was filed pursuant to §§ 37.051(c-1), (c-2), (g) and (i) of the Public Utility Regulatory Act (PURA). Subsections (c-1) and (g) require a CCN for, respectively, a facility that enables additional power to be imported into or exported out of the ERCOT power

grid and a municipally owned transmission facility located outside the boundaries of the municipality. Subsections (c-2) and (i) require the Commission to approve an application filed under Subsection (c-1) for a facility to be constructed under an interconnection agreement appended to an offer of settlement approved in a final order from FERC Docket No. TX11-01-001 directing physical connection between the ERCO and SERC regions under Sections 210-212 of the FPA. The Commission is authorized to prescribe reasonable conditions to protect the public interest that are consistent with FERC's final order.

I. JURISDICTION AND DEADLINE FOR DECISION

On February 29, 2016, the Commission issued its Order of Referral, referring this matter to the State Office of Administrative Hearings (SOAH), requesting the assignment of a SOAH Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) to conduct a hearing and issue a proposal for decision, if necessary. The Commission has jurisdiction and authority over this matter pursuant to the Public Utility Regulatory Act (PURA), Texas Utilities Code §§ 32.001, 37.053, and 37.056, and 16 Texas Administrative Code § 25.101. SOAH has jurisdiction, pursuant to Texas Government Code § 2003.049 and PURA § 14.053, over all matters relating to the conduct of a hearing in this matter.

Pursuant to PURA § 37.051(c-2) and (i), the Commission shall approve the Application within 185 days after the date it was filed. In this case, the deadline is August 29, 2016.

II. NOTICE OF PREHEARING CONFERENCE

The ALJ will convene a telephonic prehearing conference at **10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, March 9, 2016**. The purpose of the first prehearing conference will be to address the issues listed in 16 Texas Administrative Code § 22.121, including the adoption of a prehearing schedule and the setting of the hearing on the merits.

Those attending the prehearing are advised that they must check in with building security personnel in the lobby of the William P. Clements Building and be issued visitor badges before

proceeding to the hearing room. The parties should allow sufficient time for the check-in procedure.

III. FILING AND SERVICE PROCEDURES

All documents shall be filed with the Commission's filing clerk, not with the SOAH filing clerk. Both the SOAH and PUC docket numbers must be included in the caption of all documents or other correspondence filed in this case. The Commission filing clerk will forward a copy of the documents to SOAH. Parties wishing to hand-deliver a file-stamped copy of a document to the ALJ, should deliver it to Room 504, 5th Floor, Clements Building, 300 W. 15th Street, Austin, Texas. Parties may also email copies of documents, especially those that are time-sensitive, to the ALJ at casey.bell@soah.texas.gov.

SIGNED March 2, 2016.



CASEY A. BELL
ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE
STATE OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS