



Control Number: 47288



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**SOAH DOCKET NO. 473-17-5910.WS
PUC DOCKET NO. 47288**

**RATEPAYERS' APPEAL OF THE
DECISION BY WEST WISE SPECIAL
UTILITY DISTRICT TO CHANGE
RATES**

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**BEFORE THE STATE OFFICE
OF
ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS**

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ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS

**SOAH ORDER NO. 1
JURISDICTION, NOTICE OF PREHEARING CONFERENCE,
AND GENERAL PROCEDURES**

On June 14, 2017, a group of Ratepayers filed a petition to appeal a rate change made by the West Wise Special Utility District effective March 16, 2017. On August 29, 2017, the Public Utility Commission of Texas (Commission) referred this appeal to the State Office of Administrative Hearings (SOAH) for a contested case hearing.

I. JURISDICTION

Texas Water Code § 13.043 vests appellate jurisdiction over rate changes in the Commission. Pursuant to chapter 2003 of the Texas Government Code, SOAH has jurisdiction over all matters relating to the conduct of a hearing in this matter.

II. NOTICE OF PREHEARING CONFERENCE

The Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) will hold a prehearing conference at:

10:00 a.m. on September 18, 2017
State Office of Administrative Hearings
300 W. 15th Street, Fourth Floor
Austin, Texas

The ALJ may discuss the following matters at the September 18, 2017 prehearing conference:

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- (1) Motions and other preliminary matters related to the proceeding, including notice, discovery, and procedural schedules;
- (2) Settlement of the case, or clarification and simplification of the issues;
- (3) The necessity or desirability of amended pleadings;
- (4) The possibility of obtaining stipulations that would avoid the unnecessary introduction of evidence;
- (5) Evidentiary matters;
- (6) The specific procedures to be followed at the hearing;
- (7) The scheduling of the hearing on the merits; and
- (8) Any other matters as may assist in the disposition of the proceeding in a fair and efficient manner.

The ALJ urges the parties to attend the prehearing conference in person because this can facilitate a discussion of the issues between the parties. However, if a party or its representative wishes to participate by telephone, the ALJ will also use a conference bridge for the prehearing conference. Anyone wishing to participate in the prehearing conference should call the dial-in number below and, at the prompt, enter the conference ID followed by the # sign.

Dial-in-toll number:	(512) 717-4201
Dial-in toll-free number:	(800) 717-4201
Conference ID:	7606554

III. GENERAL PROCEDURES

The Commission's procedural rules govern this proceeding. *See* 16 Tex. Admin. Code ch. 22. The procedural rules may be found at the Commission's website, www.puc.texas.gov. Parties are expected to know these procedures and comply with them fully.

A. Filing

The procedures for the filing of pleadings and other documents are set out in chapter 22, subchapter E of the Commission's procedural rules. Pleadings and other documents are deemed filed when the proper number of legible copies is presented to the Commission's filing clerk for filing. **All pleadings must contain both the SOAH and PUC docket numbers to allow for efficient processing.**

B. Service

As stated above, all documents filed in this case must be filed at the Commission. When a party files a document with the Commission, that party is required to serve, or give a copy of that document, to every other party. Attached to this order is a service list for the parties' convenience. Parties are responsible for ensuring that their service list is up to date.

Parties may wish to provide an email address for receiving orders from the ALJ. If so, go to SOAH's website at <http://soah.texas.gov> and click on "Request Email Service" and complete a short form. The service list will be updated as necessary.

C. Motions and Responses to Motions and Other Pleadings


Before filing a motion or a request for relief, the party filing the motion must contact the other parties to determine if the parties agree to or oppose the motion. The motion must state the parties' positions on the requested relief.

Unless otherwise specified, responses to a motion or another pleading must be filed within **five working days** from receipt of the pleading to which the response is made. Such responsive pleadings shall state the date of receipt of the original pleading. The ALJ may consider the failure to file a timely response as acquiescence to the relief requested.

D. Discovery

Discovery may begin immediately and is governed by the Commission's procedural rules at 16 Texas Administrative Code, chapter 22, subchapter H. All discovery requests and responses shall be filed with the Commission in accordance with its procedural rules.

SIGNED August 30, 2017.



KERRIE JO QUALTROUGH
ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE
STATE OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS