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**PROJECT NO. 47552**

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**ISSUES RELATING TO THE  
DISASTER RESULTING FROM  
HURRICANE HARVEY**

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**PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION  
OF TEXAS**

PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION  
FILING CLERK

**PROJECT NO. 43517**

**DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY  
GENERALLY TO THE EXECUTIVE  
DIRECTOR**

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§

**PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION  
OF TEXAS**

**ORDER DELEGATING AUTHORITY TO THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
TO ISSUE CEASE AND DESIST ORDERS, EMERGENCY ORDERS, AND FORM  
ADVISORY COMMITTEES**

On Friday, August 25, 2017, Hurricane Harvey struck the Gulf Coast of Texas and has persisted over and near Texas causing significant damage across Central and Southeast Texas. Many of the residents of these areas of the state were displaced by Hurricane Harvey and have been evacuated or have relocated to other areas of Texas. Other residents remained in the area and have lost electric, telephone, water, and sewer service, and the delivery of other essential services has been interrupted or impaired.

The Public Utility Commission has authority on its own motion to issue a cease and desist order in accordance with PURA §§ 15.101-.107, and the Commission may delegate authority to issue a cease and desist order under these provisions to its executive director.

The Commission concludes that it is appropriate to and by this Order does delegate to the executive director authority to issue cease and desist orders under subchapter D of chapter 15 of the Public Utility Regulatory Act that are necessary to address matters related to Hurricane Harvey.

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Further, under chapter 13 of the Texas Water Code, the Commission has authority to issue emergency orders, with or without hearing, to compel certificate holders to provide water and sewer service, to compel retail public utilities to provide emergency interconnections for the provision of temporary water or sewer service, and for other matters. The Commission may delegate this authority to its executive director and also authorize the executive director to authorize in writing a representative to act on the executive director's behalf.


The Commission concludes that it is appropriate to and by this Order does delegate to the executive director authority to issue emergency orders under chapter 13 the Texas Water Code that are necessary to address matters related to Hurricane Harvey.

Finally, the Commission authorizes the Executive Director to form advisory committees as necessary to evaluate whether additional rule or statutory suspensions by the Office of the Governor are necessary and to otherwise facilitate recovery from Hurricane Harvey by any providers of electric, telecommunications, water, and sewer services.

Signed at Austin, Texas the 31<sup>st</sup> day of August 2017.

**PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF TEXAS**

  
KENNETH W. ANDERSON, JR., COMMISSIONER

  
BRANDY MARTY MARQUEZ, COMMISSIONER