

Control Number: 48151



Item Number: 59

Addendum StartPage: 0

DOCKET NO. 48151

APPLICATION OF BOLIVAR	§	
UTILITY SERVICES, LLC AND	§	PUBLIC UTILITY CON
UNDINE TEXAS ENVIRONMENTAL,	§	1241
LLC FOR SALE, TRANSFER, OR	§	OF TEXAS
MERGER OF FACILITIES AND	§	
CERTIFICATES RIGHTS IN	§	
GALVESTON COUNTY	§	

CLARIFICATION AND JOINT MOTION TO ADMIT EVIDENCE AND PROPOSED NOTICE OF APPROVAL

COME NOW Undine Texas Environmental, LLC (Undine), and Bolivar Utility Services, LLC (Bolivar) (collectively, the Applicants), together with the staff of the Public Utility Commission of Texas (Commission Staff) (collectively, the Parties), and file this Clarification and Joint Motion to Admit Evidence and Amended Proposed Notice of Approval. In support thereof, the Parties show the following:

I. BACKGROUND

On March 8, 2018, Applicants filed an application with the Public Utility Commission of Texas (Commission) for sale, transfer, or merger of facilities and certificate rights in Galveston and Chambers Counties. Specifically, Bolivar seeks to sell its sewer system and transfer service area under certificate of convenience and necessity (CCN) No. 21026 to Undine. The total area being requested includes approximately 37,468 acres and serves 702 current customers.

On January 25, 2019, Order No. 8 was issued, permitting the transaction to proceed and requiring the filing of documents demonstrating the close of the transaction. On September 26, 2019, Applicants filed the required closing documents.

On October 10, 2019, Staff filed a recommendation that the Applicants' closing documents were consistent with the applicable Commission rules. On October 11, 2019, Order No. 12 was issued, finding the closing documentation sufficient and establishing a procedural schedule.

On October 28, 2019, Staff provided a final sewer map, a revised sewer certificate, and a proposed sewer tariff to Undine for review and consent. On October 28, 2019, Staff also provided the final sewer map to Bolivar for review and consent. On October 31, 2019, Undine filed its consent form concurring with the final map, revised sewer certificate, and revised tariff. On November 1, 2019, Bolivar filed its consent form concurring with the final map.

On November 18, 2019, the parties filed proposed findings and fact and conclusions of law. On February 6, 2020, Order No. 14 required parties to provide clarification for an issue that



the Administrative Law Judge had detected by February 27, 2020. This pleading, therefore, is timely filed.

II. INTENT

It is the intent of the applicants that the entirety of Bolivar's sewer service area under CCN No. 21026 be transferred to Undine. This service area includes parts of both Galveston and Chambers counties. The Parties have conferred and agree to the attached corrected final map.

III. NOTICE

Despite mention of Chambers County being left off of the style of the docket and the text of the notice to customers, Staff nevertheless asserts that notice remains proper. Staff notes that all customers, both in Galveston and Chambers counties, were provided notice as was the Chambers County Judge. Further, the maps provided to all affected parties as part of providing notice state that this transfer is occurring in both Galveston and Chambers counties. The two maps have been attached to this pleading. In all, Staff notes that the inadvertent omission of Chambers County did not affect the number or identity of any affected parties to be provided notice.

IV. REQUEST TO UPDATE CASE STYLE

In response to Order No. 14, the Parties request the following case style apply from this point forward in the proceeding: Application of Bolivar Utility Services, LLC and Undine Texas Environmental, LLC for Sale, Transfer, or Merger of Facilities and Certificate Rights in Galveston and Chambers Counties.

V. JOINT MOTION TO ADMIT EVIDENCE

The Parties move to admit the following evidence into the record of this proceeding:

(1) The attached amended final map.

V. CONCLUSION

Staff respectfully offers this clarification and requests the adoption of the attached amended Proposed Notice of Approval.

Dated: February 27, 2020

Respectfully Submitted,

PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF TEXAS LEGAL DIVISION

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DOCKET NO. 48151

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that a copy of this document will be served on all parties of record on this the 27th of February 2020 in accordance with 16 TAC § 22.74.

Creighton R. McMurray

DOCKET NO. 48151

APPLICATION OF BOLIVAR	§	
UTILITY SERVICES, LLC AND	§	PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
UNDINE TEXAS ENVIRONMENTAL,	§	
LLC FOR SALE, TRANSFER, OR	§	OF TEXAS
MERGER OF FACILITIES AND	§	
CERTIFICATES RIGHTS IN	§	
GALVESTON AND CHAMBERS	§	
COUNTIES	-	

JOINT PROPOSED NOTICE OF APPROVAL

This Notice of Approval addresses the application of Bolivar Supply, LLC (Bolivar), and Undine Texas Environmental, LLC (Undine) (collectively, the Applicants), for sale, transfer, or merger of facilities and certificate rights in Galveston County. The Commission approves the sale of Bolivar's sewer system and the transfer of its sewer service area and its certificate of convenience and necessity (CCN) number 21026 to Undine.

I. FINDINGS OF FACT

The Commission makes the following findings of fact.

Applicants

- 1. Bolivar is a for-profit corporation registered with the Texas secretary of state under file number 800455161.
- Bolivar operates, maintains, and controls facilities for providing sewer service under CCN
 No. 21026 in Galveston and Chambers Counties.
- 3. Undine is a for-profit corporation registered with the Texas secretary of state under file number 801768069.
- Undine operates, maintains, and controls facilities for providing sewer service under CCN Nos. 21019, 20816, 20832, 20948, and 21106 in Johnson, Tarrant, Parker, Brazoria and Travis Counties.

Application

- 5. On March 8, 2018, Bolivar and Undine filed an application for the approval of the sale, transfer or merger of facilities and certificate rights in Galveston County.
- 6. The sale and transfer affect 37,468 acres and 702 current customers in Galveston and Chambers Counties, Texas.

- 7. The requested area is located approximately 7 miles north of downtown Galveston, Texas, and is generally bounded on the north by East Bay and the Gulf Intercoastal Waterway; on the east by a line approximately 1.7 miles east of SH 124; on the south by Gulf of Mexico and on the west by Galveston Bay.
- 8. Applicants agreed to the sale and transfer of sewer service area under sewer CCN 21026.

 Undine will assume sewer CCN number 21026.
- 9. In Order No. 3 issued on June 4, 2018, the administrative law judge (ALJ) found the application administratively complete.

Notice

- 10. Notice of the application appeared in the March 23, 2018 issue of the *Texas Register*.
- 11. On September 28, 2018, Carey A. Thomas, Senior Vice President, filed an affidavit on behalf of Undine, attesting that notice was provided to all current customers, neighboring utilities, and affected parties on September 28, 2018.
- 12. In Order No. 4, issued on October 5, 2018, the ALJ found the notice of the application sufficient.

Evidentiary Record

- 13. On November 18, 2019, the parties filed a joint motion to admit evidence.
- In Order No. 13, issued on January 29, 2020 the ALJ admitted the following evidence into the record: (a) the applicants' application and attachments, filed on March 8, 2018; (b) notice of the application for sale, transfer, or merger for placement in the *Texas Register*, filed on March 12, 2018; (c) acknowledgment of receipt from the *Texas Register*, filed on March 14, 2018; (d) applicants' affidavit and proof of notice, filed on September 28, 2018; (e) Staff's recommendation on the transaction, filed January 18, 2019; (f) Undine's request for an extension of time to close the transaction, filed September 19, 2019; (g) Applicant's closing documentation, filed September 26, 2019; (h) Staff's closing documents sufficiency recommendation, filed October 10, 2019; (i) Undine's consent form for map, filed on October 31, 2019; (j) Bolivar's consent form for map, filed on November 1, 2019 (k) the attached final map, Undine's revised sewer certificate, and Undine's revised tariff, previously attached to the Joint Motion to Admit Evidence and Proposed Notice of Approval, filed on November 18, 2019.

15. In Order No. ____, issued on ______, 2020, the ALJ admitted the following evidence into the record: (a) the attached corrected final map, filed February 27, 2020.

<u>Sale</u>

- 16. In Order No. 8 issued January 25, 2019, the ALJ approved the transaction to proceed and required Bolivar and Undine to file proof that the transaction had closed and that customer deposits had been addressed.
- 17. On September 19, 2019, Applicants requested a two-week extension to October 6, 2019, to complete the transaction based on working out the final details to the title commitment in its final form.
- 18. In Order No. 10 issued on September 23, 2019, the ALJ granted an extension of time to complete the transaction until October 6, 2019, based on the Applicants' showing of good cause.
- 19. On September 26, 2019, Undine filed notice that the sale had closed on September 25, 2019, and that there were no customer deposits held by Bolivar, and thus there were no customer deposits transferred pursuant to this transaction.
- 20. In Order No. 12 issued on October 11, 2019, the ALJ found the closing documents sufficient.

<u>System Compliance—Texas Water Code (TWC) § 13.301(e)(3)(A); 16 Texas Administrative</u> Code (TAC) §§ 24.227(a), 24.239(j)(3)(A), (j)(5)(A)

- 21. The system requested for transfer is a Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) approved Wastewater Discharge system that meets the applicable Texas Health and Safety and TCEQ requirements.
- 22. Bolivar and Undine do not currently have any unresolved compliance issues listed in the TCEO database.
- 23. Undine has not been subject to any enforcement actions by the Commission, the Texas Department of State Health Services, the Office of the Attorney General of Texas, or the Environmental Protection Agency in the past three years for non-compliance with rules, orders, or statutes that would indicate an inability to provide adequate service.

Adequacy of Existing Service—TWC §13.301(d); 16 TAC §24.239(j)(5)(B); TWC §13.246(c)(1), 16 TAC §24.227(d)(1)

- 24. Bolivar TCEQ approved Wastewater Discharge Permit Nos. WQ0014452001 and WQ0012936001.
- 25. Bolivar has no existing violations listed in the TCEQ database.
- 26. No additional construction is necessary for Undine to serve the requested sewer service area.

Need for Additional Service—TWC §13.301(d), 16 TAC §24.239(j)(5)(C); TWC §13.246(c)(2), 16 TAC §24.227(d)(2)

- 27. Bolivar is currently serving 702 existing connections in the requested area.
- 28. There is no need for additional service, as the existing customers are currently receiving sewer treatment service from the Laguna Harbor wastewater system.
- 29. The Crystal Palace wastewater system is currently not in operation.

Effect of Approving the Transaction and Granting the Amendment—TWC §13.301(d), 16 TAC §24.239(j)(5)(D); TWC §13.246(c)(3), 16 TAC §24.227(d)(3)

- 30. Bolivar and Undine are the only utilities affected by this transfer.
- 31. There will be no effect on any other retail public utility servicing the proximate area as there are no other sewer providers in the area.
- 32. The landowners in the transferred area will experience no change in the quality of service.

Ability to Serve: Managerial and Technical—TWC §13.301(b), 16 TAC §24.239(g), (j)(5)(E); TWC §§ 13.246(c)(4), 13.241(a), 16 TAC §§ 24.227(a), 24.227(d)(4)

- 33. Undine has a sufficient number of licensed operators and the managerial and technical capability to provide adequate and continuous service to the requested service area.
- 34. Bolivar and Undine have sufficient capability to serve the customers and no additional construction is necessary.

Ability to Serve: Financial Ability and Stability – TWC §13.301(b), 16 TAC §24.239(g), (j)(5)(G); TWC §§ 13.246(c)(6), 13.241(a), 16 TAC §§ 24.227(a), 24.227(d)(6)

- 35. Undine demonstrated that an affiliated interest is capable, available, and willing to cover temporary cash shortages and meets two out of the five leverage tests,
- 36. Undine has sufficient cash available to cover any projected operations and maintenance shortages in the first five years of operations and meets the operations test.

37. Undine demonstrated adequate financial and managerial capability to provide continuous and adequate service to the requested area.

Financial Assurance—TWC §§ 13.246(d), 13.301(c); 16 TAC §§ 24.227(e), 24.239(h)

38. There is no need to require Undine to provide a bond or other financial assurance to ensure continuous and adequate service.

Feasibility of Obtaining Service from Adjacent Retail Public Utility—TWC §13.301(d), 16 TAC §24.239(j)(5)(F); TWC §13.246(c)(5), 16 TAC §24.227(d)(5)

39. The feasibility of obtaining service from an adjacent retail public utility was not considered because Bolivar was adequately serving the existing customers and its facilities offer sufficient capacity.

Regionalization or Consolidation—TWC §16' 13.241(d); 16 TAC 24.227(b)

40. Since Undine does not anticipate building any new facilities to continue service to the requested area, regionalization or consolidation are not applicable.

Environmental Integrity—TWC §13.301(d), 16 TAC §24.239(j)(5)(H); TWC §13.246(c)(7), 16 TAC §24.227(d)(7)

41. Granting the transaction will not adversely impact the environmental integrity of the land because no additional construction is needed to service the requested area.

Effect on the Land—TWC §13.246(c)(9), 16 TAC §24.227(d)(9)

42. Granting the transaction will not adversely impact the integrity of the land because the requested area is already being served.

Improvement of Service or Lowering Cost to Consumers—TWC §13.301(d), 16 TAC §24.239(j)(5)(I); TWC §13.246(c)(8), 16 TAC §24.227(d)(8)

- 43. Undine, using the two wastewater systems already in place, will continue to provide sewer service to the existing customers in the area.
- 44. There will be no change in the rates to customers as a result of the transaction.

Tariff and Map

- 45. On October 28, 2019, Commission Staff emailed to Undine the proposed final map, revised certificate, and proposed tariff related to this docket.
- 46. On October 28, 2019, Commission Staff emailed to Bolivar the proposed final map related to this docket.

- 47. On October 31, 2019, Undine filed the consent form concurring with the proposed final map, the revised certificate, and the proposed tariff.
- 48. On November 1, 2019, Bolivar filed the consent form concurring with the proposed final map.
- 49. The final proposed map, revised certificate, and proposed tariff were filed as attachments to the joint motion to admit evidence and proposed notice of approval.
- 50. The amended final map was filed as an attachment to the amended proposed notice of approval.

Certificate

51. Bolivar has sold and transferred all of its sewer service area under CCN Number 21026 to Undine.

Informal Disposition

- 52. More than 15 days have passed since the completion of notice provided in this docket
- 53. No person filed a protest or motion to intervene.
- 54. Undine, Bolivar, and Commission Staff are the only parties to this proceeding.
- 55. No party requested a hearing and no hearing is needed.
- 56. Commission Staff recommended approval of the application.
- 57. The decision is not adverse to any party.

II. CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

The Commission makes the following conclusions of law.

- 1. The Commission has jurisdiction over this proceeding under Texas Water Code (TWC) §§ 13.041, 13.241, 13.244, 13.246, 13.251, 13.254, and 13.301.
- 2. Undine and Bolivar are retail public utilities as defined by TWC § 13.002(19) and 16 Texas Administrative Code (TAC) § 24.3(59).
- 3. Public notice of the application was provided as required by TWC § 13.301(a) and 16 TAC § 24.239(a) through (c).
- 4. The Commission processed the application as required by the TWC, the Administrative Procedure Act, and Commission Rules.
- 5. Undine and Bolivar completed the sale within the time required by 16 TAC §24.239(o).

¹ Administrative Procedure Act, Tex. Gov't Code § 2001.001-.902 (APA).

- 6. After consideration of the factors in TWC § 13.246(c), Undine has demonstrated adequate financial, managerial, and technical capability for providing adequate and continuous service to the requested area. TWC §§ 13.301(b).
- 7. Undine and Bolivar have demonstrated that the sale of Bolivar's sewer systems will serve the public interest and is necessary for the service, accommodation, convenience, or safety of the public. TWC §§ 13.301(d), 13.246(b).
- 8. A sale not completed in accordance with TWC §13.301 is void. TWC §13.301(h).
- 9. Undine must record a certified copy of the certificate granted and map approved by this Notice of Approval, along with a boundary description of the service area, in the real property records of Galveston and Chambers Counties within 31 days of receiving this Notice of Approval and submit to the Commission evidence of the recording. TWC §13.257(r), (s).
- 10. The requirements for informal disposition under 16 TAC §22.35 have been met in this proceeding.

III. ORDERING PARAGRAPHS

In accordance with these findings of fact and conclusions of law, the Commission issues the following orders:

- 1. The Commission approves Undine's purchase of Bolivar's sewer system and the transfer of Bolivar's sewer service area under CCN number 21026 to Undine, to the extent provided in this Notice of Approval.
- 2. The Commission approves the map, certificate, and tariff attached to the Joint Motion to Admit Evidence and Proposed Notice of Approval filed on November 18, 2019.
- 3. Undine must serve every customer and applicant for service within the approved area under sewer CCN number 21026 that requests sewer service and meets the terms of Undine's sewer service, and such service must be continuous and adequate.
- 4. Undine must comply with the recording requirements in TWC §13.257(r) and (s) for the area in Galveston and Chambers Counties affected by the application and submit to the Commission evidence of the recording no later than 31 days after receipt of this Notice of Approval.

- 5. Within ten days of the date of this Notice of Approval, Commission Staff must provide a clean copy of the tariff approved by this Notice of Approval to central records to be marked *Approved* and filed in the Commission's tariff books.
- 6. The Commission denies all other motions and any other requests for general or specific relief, if not expressly granted.

Signed at Austin, Texas the	day of	2020.	
	PUBLIC UTII	LITY COMMISSION OF T	EXAS
	ADMINISTR	ATIVE LAW HIDGE	

Attachment A Notice Provided

Notice to Current Customers, Neighboring Systems, and Cities UNDINE TEXAS ENVIRONMENTAL, LLC'S NOTICE OF INTENT TO PURCHASE FACILITIES AND TO TRANSFER SEWER SERVICE AREA UNDER CCN NO. 20126 FROM BOLIVAR UTILITY SERVICES, LLC IN GALVESTON COUNTY, TEXAS

To: Current Customers, Neighboring Systems, and Cities Date Mailed: September 28, 2018

Undine Texas Environmental, LLC	10913 Metronome Dr.	Houston, TX	<u>77043</u>
(Purchaser's Name)	(Address)	(City), (State)	(Zip Code)

has submitted an application with the Public Utility Commission of Texas (Commission) to purchase facilities and to transfer sewer certificated service area under CCN No. 21026, in Galveston County, TX from:

Bolivar Utility Services, LLC	P.O. Box 22858	Beaumont, TX	77720
(Seller's Name)	(Address)	(City), (State)	(Zip Code)

The sale is scheduled to take place as approved by the Commission (V.T.C.A., Water Code § 13.301). The transaction and the transfer of the CCN includes the following subdivisions: <u>Laguna Harbor and Crystal Palace</u>.

The requested area subject to this transaction is located approximately 7 miles <u>north</u> of downtown <u>Galveston</u>, Texas, and is generally bounded on the north by <u>East Bay and the Gulf Intercostal Waterway</u>; on the east by a <u>line approx</u>. 1.7 miles east of SH 124; on the south by <u>Gulf of Mexico</u> and on the west by <u>Galveston Bay</u>. The total requested area for the water or sewer CCN(s) being transferred includes approximately 37,468 acres and 702 current customers.

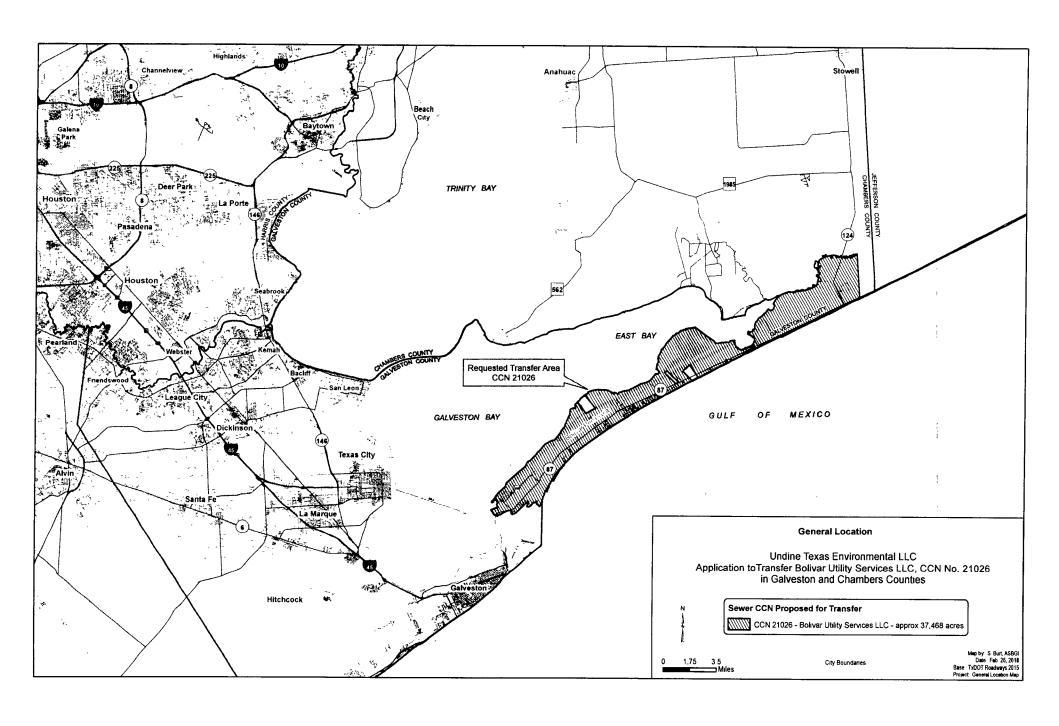
This transaction will have the following effect on the current customers' rates and services: <u>This transaction will not affect the current customer's rates and services.</u>

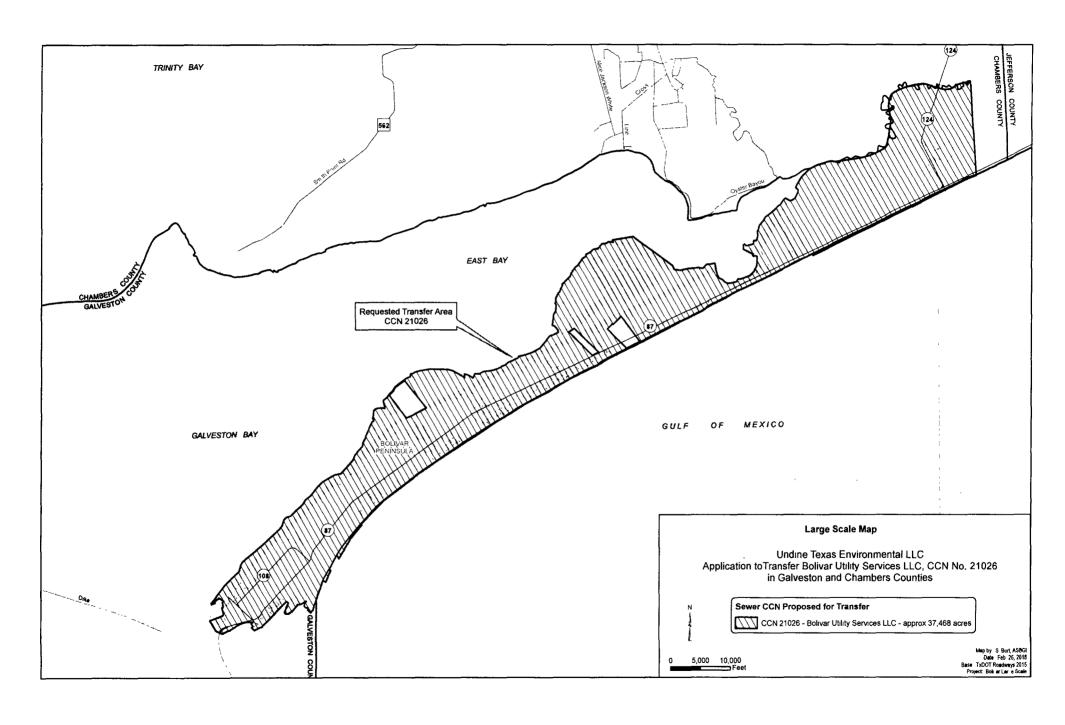
Persons who wish to intervene in the proceeding or comment upon action sought should contact the Public Utility Commission, P.O. Box 13326, Austin, Texas 78711-3326, or call the Public Utility Commission at (512) 936-7120 or (888) 782-8477. Hearing- and speech-impaired individuals with text telephones (TTY) may contact the commission at (512) 936-7136. The deadline for intervention in the proceeding is 30 days from the mailing or publication of notice, whichever occurs later, unless otherwise provided by the presiding officer. You must send a letter requesting intervention to the commission which is received by that date.

If a valid public hearing is requested, the Commission will forward the application to the State Office of Administrative Hearings (SOAH) for a hearing. If no settlement is reached and an evidentiary hearing is held, SOAH will submit a recommendation to the Commission for final decision. An evidentiary hearing is a legal proceeding similar to a civil trial in state district court.

Si desea información en español, puede llamar al 1-888-782-8477.

Carey A. ThomasUndine Texas Environmental, LLCUtility RepresentativeUtility Name

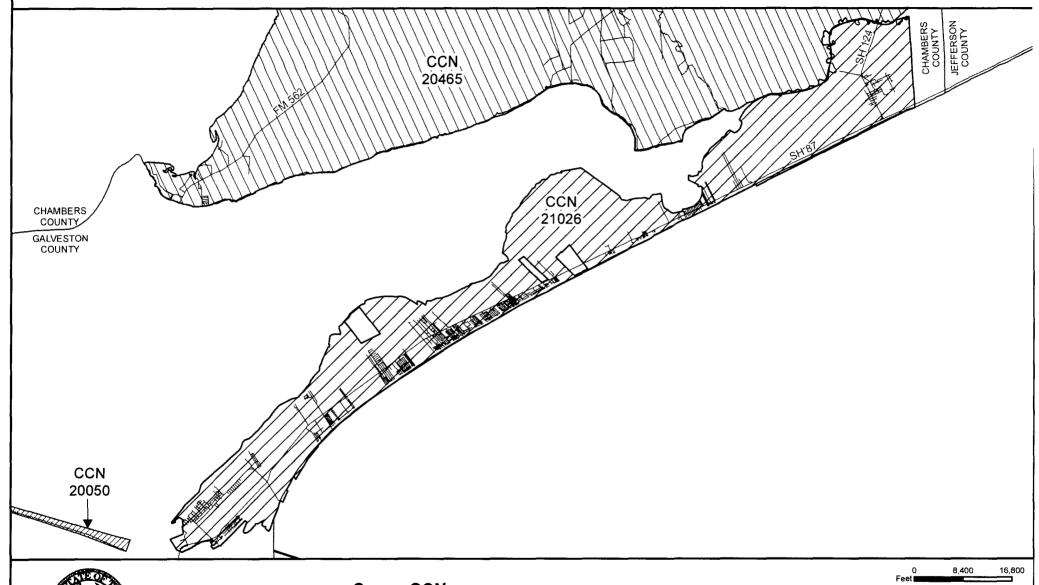




Attachment B Amended Final Map Certificate Tariff

Undine Texas Environmental, LLC Sewer CCN No. 21026 PUC Docket No. 48151

Transferred all of Bolivar Utility Services, LLC, CCN No. 21026 in Galveston and Chambers Counties





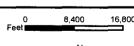
Public Utility Commission of Texas 1701 N. Congress Ave Austin, TX 78701

Sewer CCN

21026 - Undine Texas Environmental LLC

20465 - Gulf Coast Waste Disposal Authority

20050 - City of Texas City





Map by. Komal Patel Date created October 21, 2019 Project Path: n:\finalmapping\ 48151UndineTxEnvi.mxd



Public Utility Commission of Texas

By These Presents Be It Known To All That

Undine Texas Environmental, LLC

having obtained certification to provide sewer utility service for the convenience and necessity of the public, and it having been determined by this Commission that the public convenience and necessity would in fact be advanced by the provision of such service, Undine Texas Environmental, LLC, is entitled to this

Certificate of Convenience and Necessity No. 21026

to provide continuous and adequate sewer utility service to that service area or those service areas in Chambers and Galveston Counties as by final Order or Orders duly entered by this Commission, which Order or Orders resulting from Docket No. 48151 are on file at the Commission offices in Austin, Texas; and are matters of official record available for public inspection; and be it known further that these presents do evidence the authority and the duty of Undine Texas Environmental, LLC, to provide such utility service in accordance with the laws of this State and Rules of this Commission, subject only to any power and responsibility of this Commission to revoke or amend this Certificate in whole or in part upon a subsequent showing that the public convenience and necessity would be better served thereby.

Issued at Austin, Texas, this _	day of	2019.
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SEWER UTILITY TARIFF Docket Number: 48151

<u>Undine Texas Environmental, LLC</u> (Utility Name)

17681 Telge Rd. (Business Address)

Cypress, TX 77429 (City, State, Zip Code)

(713) 574-5953 (Area Code/Telephone)

This tariff is effective for utility operations under the following Certificate of Convenience and Necessity:

21026

This tariff is effective in the following counties:

Galveston and Chambers

This tariff is effective in the following cities or unincorporated towns (if any):

None

This tariff is effective in the following subdivision:

Laguna WWTP WQ0014452001
Crystal Palace WWTP WQ0012936001

TABLE OF CONTENTS

The above utility lists the following sections of its tariff (if additional pages are needed for a section, all pages should be numbered consecutively):

SECTION 1.0 - RATE SCHEDULE	2
SECTION 2.0 - SERVICE RULES AND POLICES	
SECTION 2.20 - SPECIFIC UTILITY SERVICE RULES AND REGULATIONS	8
SECTION 3.0 - EXTENSION POLICY.	13
SECTION 3.20 - SPECIFIC EXTENSION POLICY	14

APPENDIX A: SAMPLE SERVICE AGREEMENT APPENDIX B: APPLICATION FOR SERVICE

SECTION 1.0 -- RATE SCHEDULE

Section 1.01 - Rates

Meter Size	Monthly Minimum Charge	Gallonage Charge
5/8" or 3/4"	\$40.00 (per connection for all water meter sizes)	\$6.00 per 1,000 gallons
Cash X , Check Automatic I REFUSE TO A	ENT: The utility will accept the following forms X, Money Order X, Credit Card X, Ot Bank Draft THE UTILITY MAY REQUIRE EXACT CHARACCEPT PAYMENTS MADE USING MORE THAN \$1.00 IN BE GIVEN FOR CASH PAYMENTS.	her (specify)X-Prearranged NGE FOR PAYMENTS AND MAY
	SSESSMENTequire the utility to collect a fee of one perc	
Section 1.02 - Misc	ellaneous Fees	
TAP FEE COV	Sewer)/ers the utility's costs for materials and lai connection. An additional fee to cover under the co	BOR TO INSTALL A STANDARD
	leter) IE UTILITY'S ACTUAL COST FOR MATERIALS AND LABO	
TAP FEE (Pressure TAP FEE IS TE	e Sewer) HE UTILITY'S ACTUAL COST FOR MATERIALS AND LABO	R FOR TAP SIZE INSTALLED.
HAS BEEN D	FEE JECT FEE MUST BE PAID BEFORE SERVICE CAN BE RE JISCONNECTED FOR THE FOLLOWING REASONS (OR O'D) OF THIS TARIFF):	
	ment of bill (Maximum \$25.00)er's request that service be disconnected	
	ER FEE WILL BE CHARGED FOR CHANGING AN ACCOUN HEN THE SERVICE IS NOT DISCONNECTED.	
PUC RULES.	EITHER \$5.00 OR 10% OF THE BILL)	DELINQUENT BILLS. A LATE

SECTION 1.0 -- RATE SCHEDULE (Continued)

RETURNED CHECK CHARGE	\$25.00
RETURNED CHECK CHARGES MUST BE BASED ON THE UTILITY'S DOCUMENTABLE COST.	
CUSTOMER DEPOSIT RESIDENTIAL (Maximum \$50)	<u>\$50.00</u>
SERVICE RELOCATION FEE	
THIS FEE MAY BE CHARGED IF A CUSTOMER REQUEST RELOCATION OF AN EXISTING CONNECTION	SERVICE

SEASONAL RECONNECTION FEE

BASE RATE TIME NUMBER OF MONTHS OFF THE SYSTEM NOT TO EXCEED SIX MONTHS WHEN LEAVE AND RETURN WITHIN A TWELVE-MONTH PERIOD.

COMMERCIAL & NON-RESIDENTIAL DEPOSIT.. 1/6TH OF ESTIMATED ANNUAL BILL

GOVERNMENTAL TESTING, INSPECTION AND COSTS SURCHARGE:

WHEN AUTHORIZED IN WRITING BY THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF TEXAS AND AFTER NOTICE TO CUSTOMERS, THE UTILITY MAY INCREASE RATES TO RECOVER INCREASED COSTS FOR INSPECTION FEES AND WATER TESTING. [16 TEX. ADMIN. CODE § 24.21(k)(2) (TAC)]

LINE EXTENSION AND CONSTRUCTION CHARGES:

REFER TO SECTION 3.0--EXTENSION POLICY FOR TERMS, CONDITIONS, AND CHARGES WHEN NEW CONSTRUCTION IS NECESSARY TO PROVIDE SERVICE.

SECTION 2.0 -- SERVICE RULES AND POLICIES

Section 2.01 - Application for Sewer Service

The utility will have the most current Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUC or Commission) Rules, Chapter 24, available at its office for reference purposes. The Rules and this tariff shall be available for public inspection and reproduction at a reasonable cost. The latest Rules or Commission approved changes to the Rules supersede any rules or requirements in this tariff.

Section 2.02 - Application for and Provision of Sewer Service

All applications for service will be made on the utility's standard application or contract form (attached in the Appendix to this tariff) and will be signed by the applicant before sewer service is provided by the utility. A separate application or contract will be made for each service at each separate location.

After the applicant has met all the requirements, conditions, and regulations for service, the utility will install service connections, which may include a utility cut-off valve, and/or take all necessary actions to initiate service. The utility will serve each qualified applicant for service within 5 working days unless line extensions or new facilities are required. If construction is required to fill the order and if it cannot be completed within 30 days, the utility will provide the applicant with a written explanation of the construction required and an expected date of service.

Where service has previously been provided, the utility will reconnect the service within one working day after the applicant has met the requirements for reconnection.

The customer will be responsible for furnishing and laying the necessary customer service pipe from the connection location to the place of use.

Section 2.03 - Refusal of Service

The utility may decline to serve an applicant until the applicant has complied with the regulations of the regulatory agencies (state and municipal regulations) and for the reasons outlined in the PUC Rules. In the event that the utility refuses to serve an applicant, the utility will inform the applicant in writing of the basis of its refusal. The utility is also required to inform the applicant that a complaint may be filed with the Commission.

Section 2.04 - Customer Deposits

If a residential applicant cannot establish credit to the satisfaction of the utility, the applicant may be required to pay a deposit as provided for in Section 1.02 of this tariff. The utility will keep records of the deposit and credit interest in accordance with PUC Rules.

Residential applicants 65 years of age or older may not be required to pay deposits unless the applicant has an outstanding account balance with the utility or another water or sewer utility which accrued within the last two years.

SECTION 2.0 -- SERVICE RULES AND POLICIES (Cont.)

Nonresidential applicants who cannot establish credit to the satisfaction of the utility may be required to make a deposit that does not exceed an amount equivalent to one-sixth of the estimated annual billings.

<u>Refund of Deposit</u> - If service is not connected, or after disconnection of service, the utility will promptly refund the customer's deposit plus accrued interest or the balance, if any, in excess of the unpaid bills for service furnished. The utility may refund the deposit at any time prior to termination of utility service but must refund the deposit plus interest for any customer who has paid 18 consecutive billings without being delinquent.

Section 2.05 – Meter Requirements, Readings, and Testing

It is not a requirement that the utility use meters to measure the quantity of sewage disposed of by individual customers. One connection is required for each residential, commercial, or industrial facility in accordance with the TCEQ Rules.

Section 2.06 – Billing

Bills from the utility will be mailed monthly unless otherwise authorized by the Commission. The due date of bills for utility service will be at least sixteen (16) days from the date of issuance. The postmark on the bill or, if there is no postmark on the bill, the recorded date of mailing by the utility will constitute proof of the date of issuance. If the due date falls on a holiday or weekend, the due date for payment purposes will be the next workday after the due date.

A late penalty of \$5.00 will be charged on bills received after the due date. The penalty on the delinquent bills will not be applied to any balance to which the penalty was applied in a previous billing. The utility must maintain a record of the date of mailing to charge the late penalty.

Each bill will provide all information required by PUC Rules. For each of the systems it operates, the utility will maintain and note on the monthly billing a telephone number (or numbers) which may be reached by a local call by customers. At the utility's option, a toll-free telephone number or the equivalent may be provided.

In the event of a dispute between a customer and a utility regarding any bill for utility service, the utility will conduct an investigation and report the results to the customer. If the dispute is not resolved, the utility will inform the customer that a complaint may be filed with the Commission.

Section 2.07 – Service Disconnection

Utility service may be disconnected if the bill has not been paid in full by the date listed on the termination notice. The termination date must be at least 10 days after the notice is mailed or hand delivered.

SECTION 2.0 -- SERVICE RULES AND POLICIES (Cont.)

The Utility is encouraged to offer a deferred payment plan to a customer who cannot pay an outstanding bill in full and is willing to pay the balance in reasonable installments. However, a customer's utility service may be disconnected if a bill has not been paid or a deferred payment agreement entered into within 30 days from the date of issuance of a bill and if proper notice of termination has been given.

Notice of termination must be a separate mailing or hand delivery in accordance with PUC rules.

Utility service may also be disconnected without notice for reasons as described in the PUC rules.

Utility personnel must be available to collect payments and to reconnect service on the day of and the day after any disconnection of service unless service was disconnected at the customer's request or due to a hazardous condition.

Section 2.08 - Reconnection of Service

Service will be reconnected within 24 hours after the past due bill and any other outstanding charges are paid or correction of the conditions which caused service to be disconnected.

Section 2.09 - Service Interruptions

The Utility will make all reasonable efforts to prevent interruptions of service. If interruptions occur, the Utility will re-establish service within the shortest possible time. Except for momentary interruptions due to automatic equipment operations, the Utility will keep a complete record of all interruptions, both emergency and scheduled and will notify the Commission in writing of any service interruptions affecting the entire system or any major division of the system lasting more than four hours. The notice will explain the cause of the interruptions.

<u>Prorated Bills.</u> If service is interrupted or seriously impaired for 24 consecutive hours or more, the Utility will prorate the monthly base bill in proportion to the time service was not available to reflect this loss of service.

Section 2.10 - Quality of Service

The Utility will plan, furnish, and maintain and operate a treatment and collection facility of sufficient size and capacity to provide a continuous and adequate service for all reasonable consumer uses and to treat sewage and discharge the effluent at the quality required by its discharge permit issued by the TCEQ. Unless otherwise authorized by the Commission, the Utility will maintain facilities as described in the TCEQ Rules and Regulations for Public Sewer Systems.

SECTION 2.0 -- SERVICE RULES AND POLICIES (Cont.)

Section 2.11 - Customer Complaints and Disputes

If a customer or applicant for service lodges a complaint, the Utility will promptly make a suitable investigation and advise the complainant of the results. Service will not be disconnected pending completion of the investigation. If the complainant is dissatisfied with the Utility's response, the Utility must advise the complainant that he has recourse through the PUC complaint process. Pending resolution of a complaint, the Commission may require continuation or restoration of service.

The Utility will maintain a record of all complaints which shows the name and address of the complainant, the date and nature of the complaint and the adjustment or disposition thereof, for a period of two years after the final settlement of the complaint.

SECTION 2.20 – SPECIFIC UTILITY SERVICE RULES AND REGULATIONS

This section contains specific utility service rules in addition to the rules previously listed under Section 2.0. It must be reviewed and approved by the Commission and in compliance with the PUC Rules to be effective.

The Utility adopts the administrative rules of the PUC, as the same may be amended from time to time, as its Company specific service rules and regulations. These rules will be kept on file at the company's offices for customer inspection during regular business hours. In the event of a conflict between the PUC's amended rules and the provisions of this tariff, the amended rules shall prevail. Where necessary, any conflicting provision of this tariff shall be deemed to have been superseded by the PUC rule in question to the degree that the Utility may conduct its lawful business in conformance with all requirements of said rule.

All payments for utility service shall be delivered or mailed to the Utility's business office. If the business office fails to receive payment prior to the time of noticed disconnection for non-payment of a delinquent account, service will be terminated as scheduled. Utility service crews shall not be allowed to collect payments on customer accounts in the field.

Payment of an account by any means that has been dishonored and returned by the payor or payee's bank, shall be deemed to be delinquent. All returned payments must be redeemed with cash or valid money order. If a customer has two returned payments within a twelve-month period, the customer shall be required to pay a deposit if one has not already been paid.

Customer shall be liable for any damage or injury to utility-owned property or personnel shown to be caused by the customer, his invitees, his agents, his employees, or others directly under his control.

<u>Limitation on Product/Service Liability</u> - The Utility will not accept liability for any injury or damage to individuals or their property occurring on the customer's premises. The Utility makes no representations or warranties (expressed or implied) that customer's appliances will not be damaged by disruptions of or fluctuations in sewer service whatever the cause. The Utility will not accept liability for injuries or damages to persons or property due to disruption of sewer service caused by: (1) acts of God, (2) acts of third parties not subject to the control of the Utility if the Utility has undertaken such preventive measures as are required by PUC and TCEQ rules, (3) electrical power failures in sewer systems not required by TCEQ rule to have auxiliary power supplies, or (4) termination of sewer service pursuant to the Utility's tariff and the PUC 's rules

If the services of a registered professional engineer are required as a result of an application for service received by the Utility for service to that applicant's service extension only, such engineer will be selected by the Utility and the applicant, and the applicant shall bear all expenses incurred therein.

If an applicant requires service other than the standard service provided by the Utility, such applicant will be required to pay all expenses incurred by the Utility in excess of the expenses that would be incurred in providing the standard service and connection.

SECTION 2.20 – SPECIFIC UTILITY SERVICE RULES AND REGULATIONS (Cont.)

Any applicant who places unique or non-standard service demands on the system may be required to provide contributions in aid of construction (as may be allowed by PUC rule) for the actual costs of any additional facilities required to maintain compliance with the TCEQ minimum design criteria for sewer collection, treatment, pumping and discharge.

Any applicant or existing customer required to pay for any costs not specifically set forth in the rate schedule pages of this tariff shall be entitled to a written explanation of such costs prior to payment and/or commencement of construction. If the applicant or existing customer does not believe that these costs are reasonable or necessary, the applicant or existing customer shall have the right to appeal such costs to the PUC or such other regulatory authority having jurisdiction over the Utility's rates in that portion of the Utility's service area in which the applicant's or existing customer's property(ies) is(are) located.

Tap fees may be increased by unique costs not normally incurred as may be permitted by 16 TAC § 24.163(a)(1)(C).

The Utility adopts the Uniform Plumbing Code pursuant to TCEQ Rule 290.46(i). The piping and other equipment on the premises furnished by the customer will be maintained by the customer at all times in conformity with the requirements of the TCEQ, the Uniform Plumbing Code and with the service rules and regulations of the Utility. The customer will bring out his service line to his property line at the point on the customer's property mutually acceptable to the customer and the Utility subject to such requirements as may exist by TCEQ and/or PUC rule.

The Utility will have the right of access to the customer's premises at all times reasonable for the purpose of installing, testing, inspecting, or repairing sewer mains or other equipment used in connection with its provision of sewer service, or for the purpose of removing its property and disconnecting lines, and for all other purposes necessary to the operation of the Utility system including inspecting the customer's plumbing for code, plumbing, or tariff violations. The customer shall allow the Utility and its personnel access to the customer's property to conduct any tests or inspections required by law. Unless necessary to respond to equipment failure, leak or other condition creating an immediate threat to public health and safety or the continued provision of adequate utility service to others, such entry upon the customer's property shall be during normal business hours. The customer may require any Utility representative, employee, contractor, or agent seeking to make such entry to identify themselves, their affiliation with the Utility, and the purpose of their entry.

Threats to or assaults upon Utility personnel shall result in criminal prosecution.

Except in cases where the customer has a contract with the Utility for reserve or auxiliary service, no other sewer service will be used by the customer on the same installation in conjunction with the Utility's service, either by means of a crossover valve or any other connection. Customer shall not connect, or allow any other person or party to connect, onto any sewer lines on his premises. Two places shall not be permitted to be supplied with one service pipe where there is a sewer main abutting the premises.

SECTION 2.20 – SPECIFIC UTILITY SERVICE RULES AND REGULATIONS (Cont.)

No application, agreement, or contract for service may be assigned or transferred without the written consent of the Utility.

It is agreed and understood that any and all sewer lines, and other equipment furnished by the Utility (excepting the customer's individual service lines from the point of connection to customer's structures on customer's premises) are and shall remain the sole property of the Utility, and nothing contained herein or in a contract/application for service shall be construed to reflect a sale or transfer of any such lines or equipment to any customer. All tap and extension charges shall be for the privilege of connecting to said sewer lines and for installation, not purchase, of said lines.

Service applicants may be required to comply with any pre-condition to receiving service not printed herein as may exist under PUC rule, TCEQ rule (customer service, health and safety, sewer environmental), USEPA rule, TWDB rule, local regulatory district rule, or health department rule. Existing customers shall be required to comply with such rules, including modification of their plumbing and/or consumption patterns, after notice.

The disposal into the Utility's sewer collection system of bulk quantities of food or food scraps not previously processed by a grinder or similar garbage disposal unit and grease and oils, except as incidental waste in process or wash water, used in or resulting from food preparation by sewer utility customers engaged in the preparation and/or processing of food for other than domestic consumption for sale to the public shall be prohibited. Specifically included in this prohibition are grease and oils from grease traps to other grease and/or oil storage containers. These substances are defined as "garbage" under Section 361.003 (12) of the Solid Waste Disposal Act, Texas Health and Safety Code, and are not "sewage" as defined by Section 26.001 (7), of the Texas Sewer Code. The Utility only provides "sewage" collection and disposal service to the public. This service is limited to the collection, treatment and disposal of waterborne human waste and waste from domestic activities such as washing, bathing, and food preparation. This service does not include the collection, treatment or disposal of waste of such high BOD or TSS characteristics that it cannot reasonably be processed by the Utility's state approved waste water treatment plant within the parameters of the Utility's state and federal waste water discharge permits, THIS SERVICE DOES NOT INCLUDE THE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL OF STORM WATERS OR RUN OFF WATERS, WHICH MAY NOT BE DIVERTED INTO OR DRAINED INTO THE UTILITY'S COLLECTION SYSTEM.

Pursuant to 16 TAC § 24.165(o), the Utility may charge for all labor, material, equipment, and other costs necessary to repair or replace all equipment damaged due to service diversion or the discharge of wastes which the system cannot properly treat. This shall include all repair and clean up costs associated with discharge of grease and oils, except as incidental waste in process or wash sewer, used in or resulting from food preparation by sewer utility customers engaged in the preparation and/or processing of food for other than domestic consumption or for sale to the public discharged from grease traps or other grease and/or oil storage containers. The Utility may charge for all costs necessary to correct service diversion or unauthorized taps where there is no equipment damage, including incidents where service is reconnected without authority.

SECTION 2.20 – SPECIFIC UTILITY SERVICE RULES AND REGULATIONS (Cont.)

The Utility may not charge any additional penalty or charge other than actual costs unless such penalty has been expressly approved by the regulatory authority having rate/tariff jurisdiction and filed in the Utility's tariff.

Pursuant to 16 TAC § 24.163(b)(3)(A) and (B), the customer's service line and appurtenances shall be construed in accordance with the laws and regulations of the State of Texas, local plumbing codes, or, in the absence of such local codes, the Uniform Plumbing Code. It shall be the customer's responsibility to maintain the service line and appurtenances in good operating condition, i.e., clear of obstruction, defects, or blockage. If the Utility can provide evidence of excessive infiltration or inflow or failure to provide proper pretreatment, the Utility may, with the written approval of the Commission, require the customer to repair the line or eliminate the infiltration or inflow or take such actions necessary to correct the problem. If the customer fails to correct the problem within a reasonable time, the Utility may disconnect service after proper notice.

In accordance with the requirements of Utility's Wastewater Discharge Permit, any and all repairs and maintenance of Utility's lines, tanks, pumps and equipment located on Customer's premises shall be performed exclusively by the Utility. Copies of the Utility's state and federal waste water discharge permits shall be available for public inspection and copying in the Utility's business office during normal business hours.

Non-residential customers electing the pretreatment option for sewage with non-standard characteristics may be charged those costs set forth in the Utility's extension policy if such pretreatment fails or otherwise causes the Utility's facilities to violate their waste-water discharge permits.

RESIDENTIAL SINGLE FAMILY GRINDER / SEWAGE STATIONS

Prior to the installation of a grinder / sewage station, the Utility must be given a complete listing of all materials and equipment that will be used.

In order to prevent inflow and infiltration, the materials must comply with standard specifications, approved by the TCEQ.

After the Utility has approved the proposed grinder / sewage station, the construction may begin. Once the work has been completed, the Utility will do an inspection of the grinder / sewage station to ensure the complete installation was as specified.

The customer will retain ownership of receiving tanks or lift stations on the customer's property, and all maintenance, repairs, and replacement are the customer's responsibility. The repairs may be performed by anyone selected by the customer, who is competent to perform such repairs. The Utility requires that parts and equipment meet the minimum standards approved by the TCEQ, to ensure proper and efficient operation of the sewer system.

SECTION 2.20 - SPECIFIC UTILITY SERVICE RULES AND REGULATIONS (Cont.)

MULTI-FAMILY AND COMMERCIAL RECEIVING TANK / LIFT STATIONS

Prior to the installation of a grinder / sewage station, the Utility must be given a complete listing of all materials and equipment that will be used, along with the storage for that development.

In order to minimize inflow and infiltration into the collection system, the installation and materials must comply with standard specifications approved by the TCEQ.

After the Utility has approved the proposed grinder / sewage station, the construction may begin. Once the work has been completed, the Utility will do an inspection of the grinder / sewage station to ensure the complete installation was as specified.

Prior to acceptance of an existing receiving tank or lift station that is being used as an interceptor tank for primary treatment, waste sewer storage or pump tanks prior to discharge into an alternative or conventional sewage system must be cleaned, inspected, repaired, modified, or replaced if necessary to minimize inflow and infiltration into the collection system.

Existing pumps and tanks must be of adequate size to ensure proper pumpage in the event of high flow or if one pump is out of service. If the existing pumps and receiving tanks or lift stations are of inadequate size the Utility will not accept liability for backups due to: high flows, one pump out of service, rainfall causing inflow or infiltration, power outages, lack of proper storage capacity, etc.

If the collection system that discharges into the receiving tank / lift station has an inflow or infiltration problem and collects rainfall discharge, the owner or P.O.A. will correct it within 90 days of written notice from the Utility. If no action is taken to correct the problem within 90 days, the Utility may take the responsibility to make corrections at the owner's / P.O.A.'s expense.

The Utility is not responsible for the collection system that discharges into the receiving tank / lift station.

The owner / P.O.A. shall be responsible for the monthly electric bill.

An adequate easement must encompass the receiving tank / lift station by a 15-foot radius and also a 15-foot access easement to the receiving tank / lift station site. If this easement does not exist, one must be created and filed of record.

SECTION 3.0 – EXTENSION POLICY

Section 3.01 - Standard Extension Requirements

LINE EXTENSION AND CONSTRUCTION CHARGES: No contribution in aid of construction may be required of any customer except as provided for in this approved extension policy.

The customer will be given an itemized statement of the costs, options such as rebates to the customer, sharing of construction costs between the Utility and the customer, or sharing of costs between the customer and other applicants before beginning construction.

The Utility will bear the full cost of any oversizing of mains necessary to serve other customers in the immediate area. The individual residential customer shall not be charged for any additional treatment capacity or facilities. Contributions in aid of construction <u>may not be required</u> of individual residential customers for treatment capacity or collection facilities unless otherwise approved by the Commission under this specific extension policy.

COST UTILITIES SHALL BEAR. Within its certificate area, the Utility will pay the cost of the first 200 feet of any sewer collection line necessary to extend service to an individual residential customer within a platted subdivision. However, if the residential customer requesting service purchased the property after the developer was notified of the need to provide facilities to the Utility, the Utility may charge for the first 200 feet. The Utility must also be able to document that the developer of the subdivision refused to provide facilities compatible with the Utility's facilities in accordance with the Utility's approved extension policy after receiving a written request from the Utility.

Developers may be required to provide contributions in aid of construction in amounts to furnish the system with all facilities necessary to comply with the PUC's Rules.

(Utility Name)

SECTION 3.20 – SPECIFIC UTILITY EXTENSION POLICY

This section contains the Utility's specific extension policy which complies with the requirements already stated under Section 3.01. It must be reviewed and approved by the Commission and in compliance with PUC Rules to be effective.

Residential customers not covered under Section 3.01 will be charged the equivalent of the costs of extending service to their property from the nearest collection line even if that line does not have adequate capacity to serve the customer. However, if the customer places unique, non-standard service demands upon the system, the customer may be charged the full cost of extending service to and throughout their property, including the cost of all necessary treatment capacity necessary to meet the service demands anticipated to be created by that property.

Developers may be required to provide contributions in aid of construction in amounts sufficient to furnish the development with all facilities necessary to provide for reasonable local demand requirements and to comply with TCEQ's minimum design criteria for facilities used in collecting, treating, transmitting, and discharging of wastewater effluent. For purposes of this subsection, a developer is one who subdivides or requests more than two connections on a piece of property. Commercial, industrial, and wholesale customers will be treated as developers.

The Utility adopts the administrative rules of the PUC, as amended from time to time, as its company specific extension policy. These rules will be kept on file at the company's business office for customer inspection during normal business hours.

Non-residential customers generating sewage creating unique or non-standard treatment demands which might reasonably be expected to cause the Utility's treatment facilities to operate outside their current waste-water discharge permit parameters may be charged the cost of all studies, engineering plans, permit costs, and collection treatment or discharge facilities construction or modification costs necessary to enable the Utility to treat said sewage within permit limits acceptable to the TCEQ, EPA, and other regulatory agencies. In the alternative, the customer may have the option of pre-treating said sewage in such a manner so that it may not reasonably be expected to cause the Utility's facilities to operate outside their permit parameters. In such case, the customer shall be required to pay the Utility's costs of evaluating such pretreatment processes and costs of obtaining regulatory approval of such pretreatment processes. In the event the pretreatment facilities of a customer making this election fail and cause the Utility's facilities to operate outside their permit parameters, the customer shall indemnify the Utility for all costs incurred for clean ups or environmental remediation and all fines, penalties, and costs imposed by regulatory or judicial enforcement actions relating to such permit violations.

Non-residential sewer customers producing water borne waste significantly different from waste generated by residential customers may be required to provide a suitable sampling point at the property line for testing the customer's waste for chemicals or substances, e.g., grease, oils, solvents, pesticides, etc., which can reasonably be believed to have an injurious effect on the Utility's plant and/or its ability to treat and dispose of such wastes within the parameters of the Utility's permit. Utility shall have reasonable access to the sampling point at all times.

Any service extension to a subdivision (recorded or unrecorded) may be subject to the provisions and restrictions of 16 TAC § 24.163(d) and this tariff. When a developer wishes to extend the system to prepare to service multiple new connections, the charge shall be the cost of such extension, plus a pro-rata charge based upon the capacities of collection, transmission, storage, treatment, and discharge facilities, compliant with the TCEQ minimum design criteria, which must be committed to such extension. As provided by 16 TAC § 24.163(c)(3), for purposes of this section, commercial, industrial, and wholesale customers shall be treated as developers.

The imposition of additional extension costs or charges as provided by Sections 2.20 and 3.20 of this tariff shall be subject to appeal as provided in this tariff, PUC rules, or the rules of such other regulatory authority as may have jurisdiction over the Utility's rates and services. Any applicant required to pay for any costs not specifically set forth in the rate schedule pages of this tariff shall be entitled to a written explanation of such costs prior to payment and/or commencement of construction. If the applicant does not believe that these costs are reasonable or necessary, the applicant shall have the right to appeal such costs to the PUC or such other regulatory authority having jurisdiction over the utility's rates in that portion of the utility's service area in which the applicant's property(ies) is (are) located. Unless the PUC or other regulatory authority enters interlocutory orders to the contrary, service to the applicant may be delayed until such appeal is resolved.

The Utility will provide a written service application form to the applicant for each request for service received by the Utility's business offices. A separate application shall be required for each potential service location if more than one service connection is desired by any individual applicant. Service application forms will be available for applicant pick up at the Utility's business office during normal weekday business hours. Service applications will be sent by prepaid first class United States mail to the address provided by the applicant upon request. Completed applications should be returned by hand delivery in case there are questions which might delay fulfilling the service request. Completed service applications may be submitted by mail if hand delivery is not possible.

The Utility shall serve each qualified service applicant within its certificated service area as soon as practical after receiving a completed service application. All service requests will be fulfilled within the time limits prescribed by PUC rules once the applicant has met all conditions precedent to achieving "qualified service applicant" status. If a service request cannot be fulfilled within the required period, the applicant shall be notified in writing of the delay, its cause and the anticipated date that service will be available. The PUC service dates shall not become applicable until the service applicant has met all conditions precedent to becoming a "qualified service applicant" as defined herein or by PUC rules.

The Utility is not required to extend service to any applicant outside of its certificated service area and will only do so, at the Utility's sole option, under terms and conditions mutually agreeable to the Utility and the applicant and upon extension of the Utility's certificated service area boundaries by the PUC. Service applicants may be required to bear the cost of the service area amendment.

A "qualified service applicant" is an applicant who has: (1) met all of the Utility's requirements of service contained in this tariff, PUC rules, and/or PUC order, (2) has made all payments for tap fees and extension charges, (3) has provided all necessary easements and rights-of-way necessary to provide service to the requested location, including staking said easements or rights-of-way where necessary, and (4) has executed a customer service application for each location to which service is being requested.

Where a new tap or service connection is required, the service applicant shall be required to submit a written service application and request that a tap be made. The tap request must be accompanied with a plat, map, diagram or written metes and bounds description of precisely where the applicant desires each tap or service connection is to be made and, if necessary, where the connection is to be installed, along the applicant's property line. The actual point of connection must be readily accessible to Utility personnel for inspection, servicing and testing while being reasonably secure from damage by vehicles and mowers. If the Utility has more than one main adjacent to the service applicant's property, the tap or service connection will be made to the Utility's nearest service main with adequate capacity to service the applicant's full potential service demand. If the tap or service connection cannot be made at the applicant's desired location, it will be made at another location mutually acceptable to the applicant and the Utility. If no agreement on location can be made, applicant may refer the matter to the Commission for resolution. Unless otherwise ordered by the Commission, the tap or service connection will not be made until the location dispute is resolved.

The Utility shall require a developer (as defined by PUC rule) to provide permanent recorded public utility easements as a condition of service to any location within the developer's property. The Developer shall be required to obtain all necessary easements and rights-of-way required to extend the Utility's existing service facilities from their nearest point with adequate service capacity (as prescribed by TCEQ rules and local service conditions) to and throughout the Developer's property. The easements shall be sufficient to allow the construction, installation, repair, maintenance, testing, and replacement of any and all utility plant necessary to provide continuous and adequate service to each and every potential service location within the property at full occupancy. Unless otherwise restricted by law, sewage treatment, holding tank sites, and lift station sites shall convey with all permanent easements and buffers required by TCEQ rules. Unless otherwise agreed to by the utility, pipe line right-of-way easements must be at least 15 feet wide to allow adequate room to facilitate backhoe and other heavy equipment operation and meters to provide service. Easements must be provided for all storage, treatment, pressurization, and disposal sites which are sufficient to construct and maintain all weather roads as prescribed by TCEQ rules. All easements shall be evidenced, at Developer's expense, by recorded countyapproved subdivision plat or by specific assignment supported by metes and bounds survey from a surveyor licensed by the State of Texas.

Prior to the extension of utility service to developers (as defined by PUC rules) or new subdivisions, the Developer shall comply with the following:

- (a) The Developer shall make a written request for service to property that is to be subdivided and developed. The Developer shall submit to the Utility a proposed plat on a scale of one inch (1") to two hundred feet (200') for review and determination of required easements, utility plant, and plant location. If sewer service is requested, the plat must contain elevation data. A reconcilable deposit in an amount set by the Utility may be required to cover preliminary engineering, legal, and copy costs to be incurred by the Utility in reviewing and planning to meet this service request. The plat and/or accompanying information shall identify the type, location, and number of houses and other planned structures that will be requiring utility service. If other than residential structures are to be located on the property, all other types of anticipated businesses and their service demands shall be identified with specificity. All areas requiring special irrigation and/or other unique sewer demands must be identified with specificity. All areas requiring special irrigation and/or other unique water demands must be identified. To the extent reasonably possible, this information must be precise so that adequate facilities can be designed and constructed to meet all future service demands without hazard to the public, other utility customers, and/or the environment.
- (b) After the requirements of easements and rights-of-way have been determined, a red line copy will be returned by the Utility to the Developer for final plat preparation.
- (c) Copies of all proposed plats and plans must be submitted to the Utility prior to their submission to the county for approval to ensure that they are compatible with the adequate long-term utility needs of potential service customers. Copies will be returned after review by the Utility so that necessary changes may be incorporated into the Developer's final submitted plat(s) and plans.
- (d) The Utility shall be provided with three (3) certified copies of the final plat(s) approved by the County Commissioners Court. At this time, the Utility will begin engineering the facilities necessary to serve the property. Plans and specifications will be prepared and submitted to the TCEQ by the Utility if required by law. If further plat or plans changes are necessary to accommodate the specific service needs of the property and the anticipated customer demands, the Developer will be so notified. Plat amendments must be obtained by the Developer. The Developer shall be notified when all required TCEQ or other governmental approvals or permits have been received. No construction of utility plant which requires prior TCEQ plans approval shall be commenced until that approval has been received by the Utility and any conditions imposed by the TCEQ in association with its approvals have been satisfied.

- (e) The Developer shall be required to post bond or escrow the funds necessary to construct all required utility plant, except individual sewer connections, required to serve the property. Construction shall not commence until funds are available. If the construction is to be done in coordination with the phased development of the property, funds must be provided in advance which are sufficient to complete each phase. No phase or facilities for any phase shall be constructed prior to the bonding or escrowing of all funds associated with that phase.
- (f) At the sole option of the Utility, the Developer may be required to execute a Developer Extension Contract setting forth all terms and conditions of extending service to their property including all contributions-in-aid of construction and developer reimbursements, if any.
- (g) The Utility may require the Developer to commence construction of subdivision improvements within three (3) months of utility plans approval or the Utility may abate its construction activities until full development construction begins. If the Developer stops construction of subdivision improvements for any purpose, the Utility may abate its construction for a similar period.
- (h) As soon as the roads are rough cut and prior to paving, extension lines will need to be constructed at each road crossing. The Developer must notify the Utility sufficiently in advance of this development stage to allow for the necessary utility construction without disruption to other service operations of the Utility. Failure to provide adequate advance notice and cooperation in the construction of necessary utility plant may result in additional delays in obtaining service to the property. The Developer shall be required to pay for all additional costs of road boring or other remedial construction necessary to install adequate utility plant throughout the affected property.

Within its certificated area, the Utility shall bear the cost of the first 200 feet of any sewer main or sewer collection line necessary to extend service to an individual residential service applicant within a platted subdivision unless the Utility can document:

- a) that the developer of the subdivision refused to provide facilities compatible with the utility's facilities in accordance with the Utility's approved extension policy after receiving a written request from the Utility; or,
- b) that the Developer defaulted on the terms and conditions of a written agreement or contract existing between the Utility and the Developer or the terms of this tariff regarding payment for services, extensions, or other requirements; or in the event the Developer declared bankruptcy and was therefore unable to meet obligations; and,

- c) that the residential service applicant purchased the property from the Developer after the Developer was notified of the need to provide facilities to the utility. A residential service applicant may be charged the remaining costs of extending service to his property; provided, however, that the residential service applicant may only be required to pay the cost equivalent to the cost of extending the nearest water main or wastewater collection line, whether or not that line has adequate capacity to serve that residential service applicant. The following criteria shall be considered to determine the residential service applicant's cost for extending service:
 - (1) The residential service applicant shall not be required to pay for costs of main extensions greater than 2" in diameter for pressure wastewater collection lines and 6" in diameter for gravity wastewater lines.
 - (2) Exceptions may be granted by the PUC if:
 - (A) adequate service cannot be provided to the applicant using the maximum line sizes listed due to distance or elevation, in which case, it shall be the Utility's burden to justify that a larger diameter pipe is required for adequate service;
 - (B) larger minimum line sizes are required under subdivision platting requirements or applicable building codes.
 - (3) If an exception is granted, the Utility shall establish a proportional cost plan for the specific extension or a rebate plan which may be limited to seven years to return the portion of the applicant's costs for oversizing as new customers are added to ensure that future applicants for service on the line pay at least as much as the initial service applicant.

For purposes of determining the costs that service applicants shall pay, commercial customers with service demands greater than residential customer demands in the certificated area, industrial, and wholesale customers shall be treated as developers.

APPENDIX A – SAMPLE SERVICE AGREEMENT (Utility Must Attach Blank Copy)

APPENDIX B – APPLICATION FOR SERVICE (Utility Must Attach a Blank Copy)