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DOCKET NO. 48342

**APPLICATION OF GUM ISLAND
UTILITY FOR AUTHORITY TO
CHANGE RATES**

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**PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
OF TEXAS**

COMMISSION STAFF'S STATUS REPORT

COMES NOW the Staff of the Public Utility Commission of Texas (Staff), representing the public interest, and files this Status Report and would show the following:

I. BACKGROUND

On May 3, 2018, Gum Island Utility Company (Gum Island) filed an application as “Whitewing” utility for a Class B rate change under Texas Water Code (TWC) §§ 13.1871 and 13.1872(c)(2). Order No. 6, issued August 8, 2018, found the application administratively complete, directed Gum Island to re-notice customers, and suspended the effective date of the proposed rate change for 265 days from the effective date included in the new notice to customers.

On September 20, 2019, Gum Island filed an application for a sale, transfer, or merger (STM).¹ On September 24, 2019, Gum Island filed a revised Notice of Proposed Rate Change with a proposed effective date of November 1, 2019. Order No. 12, issued November 5, 2019, suspended the new effective date until July 23, 2020, and established January 25, 2020, as the deadline for Staff to file an update on the status of the STM application and a recommendation on the further processing of this docket, including a procedural schedule.

Staff filed a status report on April 24, 2020, requesting the continued abatement of this proceeding. Order No. 16, issued April 28, 2020, continued the abatement and directed staff to file a Status Report by June 29, 2020. Therefore, this pleading is timely filed.

¹ *Application of Gum Island Utility and East Houston Utilities, Inc. dba Krebs Utilities for a Sale, Transfer, Merger of Facilities and Certificate Rights in Liberty County*, Docket No. 50038 (pending).

II. STATUS REPORT

Gum Island's STM application was found sufficient on March 13, 2020.² Gum Island's proof of notice was also found sufficient and a procedural schedule for further processing of the docket was adopted.³ Pursuant to the procedural schedule, Staff filed its Recommendation on Approval of the Transaction on May 27, 2020 and the parties filed an Agreed Motion to Admit Evidence and Proposed Order Approving the Transaction to Proceed on June 17, 2020. Staff recommends continuing the abatement of the instant case for an additional 60 days to allow for the issuance of an Order approving the transaction to proceed. Staff will file a Status Report on the progress of the STM on or before August 28, 2020.

III. CONCLUSION

Staff respectfully requests the entry of an order continuing the abatement of this case and directing Staff to file a status report on or before August 28, 2020.

Dated: June 29, 2020

² *Id.*, Order No. 5 Finding Application Sufficient; Requiring Notice; and Establishing Procedural Schedule (Mar. 13, 2020).

³ *Id.*, Order No. 6 Finding Notice Sufficient and Establishing Procedural Schedule (Apr. 28, 2020).

Respectfully Submitted,

**PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF TEXAS
LEGAL DIVISION**

Rachelle Nicolette Robles
Division Director

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I certify that, unless otherwise ordered by the presiding officer, notice of the filing of this document was provided to all parties of record via electronic mail on June 29, 2020, in accordance with the Order Suspending Rules, issued in Project No. 50664.

/s/ Eleanor D'Ambrosio
Eleanor D'Ambrosio