



Control Number: 48680



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**PUC DOCKET NO. 48680
SOAH DOCKET NO. 473-19-6298.WS**

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APPLICATION OF BLUEBONNET HILLS WATER SUPPLY CORPORATION AND THE CITY OF CRESSON FOR SALE, TRANSFER, OR MERGER OF FACILITIES AND CERTIFICATE RIGHTS IN PARKER AND JOHNSON COUNTIES	§ § § § § § §	PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF TEXAS
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ORDER

This Order addresses the September 12, 2018 application of Bluebonnet Hills Water Supply Corporation and the City of Cresson for the sale, transfer, or merger of certificate rights in Parker and Johnson counties. The Commission approves the sale and transfer of all of Bluebonnet’s facilities and service area under water certificate of convenience and necessity (CCN) number 12290 to the City of Cresson, the cancellation of water CCN number 12290, and the amendment of the City of Cresson’s CCN number 11472 to include the area previously included in Bluebonnet’s CCN number 12290.

I. Findings of Fact

The Commission makes the following findings of fact.

Applicants

1. Bluebonnet is a non-profit corporation registered with the state of Texas under file number 75104201.
2. Bluebonnet operates, maintains, and controls facilities for providing retail water service in Johnson and Parker counties under CCN number 12290.
3. Bluebonnet controls facilities that are registered with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) under public water system identification number 1840086.
4. The City of Cresson is a municipality in the state of Texas.
5. The City of Cresson, operating under the name Cresson Water Works, operates, maintains, and controls facilities for providing retail water service under CCN number 11472.

Application

6. On September 12, 2018, Bluebonnet and the City of Cresson filed the application at issue in this proceeding.
7. The applicants filed supplemental information on September 27 and December 7, 2018 and May 21, July 10, November 1, and December 2, 2019.
8. In the application, the applicants seek approval of the following transaction: (a) the City of Cresson will acquire all of Bluebonnet's facilities and water service area from Bluebonnet under water CCN number 12290; (b) Bluebonnet's water CCN number 12290 will be cancelled; and (c) a new water CCN, number 13284, will be issued to the City of Cresson.
9. The requested area to be transferred is located approximately two miles north of downtown Cresson, and is generally bounded on the north by a line one mile north of the Parker and Johnson county line, on the east by a line three-quarters of a mile east of US Highway 377, on the south by a line 400 feet south of South Skyline Court, and on the west by US Highway 377.
10. The requested area includes 436 acres and 164 current customers.
11. The requested area lies within the City of Cresson's municipal boundaries.
12. In Order No. 3 filed on February 14, 2019, the administrative law judge (ALJ) found the application administratively complete.

Referral to SOAH

13. On July 22, 2019, this matter was referred to the State Office of Administrative Hearings (SOAH) for a hearing on the merits.
14. On November 1, 2019, Commission Staff moved to have the case remanded from SOAH to allow for continued processing of the application on an uncontested basis.
15. In SOAH Order No. 4 filed on November 5, 2019, the SOAH ALJ remanded this matter to the Commission.

Notice of the Application

16. Notice of the application appeared in the September 28, 2018 issue of the *Texas Register*.

17. On July 8, 2019, the applicants filed an affidavit attesting that notice was provided to all current customers of Bluebonnet, neighboring utilities, and affected parties on March 5, 2019.
18. In SOAH Order No. 2 filed on September 5, 2019, the SOAH ALJ found the applicants' notice sufficient.

Evidentiary Record

19. On January 24, 2020, the parties filed an agreed motion to admit evidence.
20. In Order No. 8 filed on February 10, 2020, the ALJ admitted the following evidence into the record: (a) the application filed on September 12, 2018; (b) the applicants' supplement to the application filed on September 27, 2018; (c) the applicants' supplement to the application filed on December 7, 2018; (d) the applicants' supplement to the application filed on December 2, 2019; (e) Commission Staff's supplemental recommendation on administrative completeness filed on February 14, 2019; (f) the applicants' proof of notice and supporting documentation filed on May 21 and July 10, 2019; (g) Commission Staff's recommendation on notice filed on July 22, 2019; and (h) Commission Staff's recommendation requesting the entry of an order permitting the proposed transaction to proceed, and attachments thereto, filed on December 20, 2019.
21. On June 11, 2020, Commission Staff filed an agreed supplemental motion to admit evidence on behalf of the parties.
22. On June 30, 2020, the parties filed a supplement to the agreed proposed notice of approval, to which they attached a proposed map and certificate.
23. In Order No. 12 filed on July 1, 2020, the ALJ admitted the following evidence into the record: (a) applicants' proof of closing documents filed on March 24 and 25, 2020; (b) Commission Staff's supplemental recommendation on the sufficiency of the closing documents filed on April 9, 2020; (c) applicants' consent forms filed on May 28, 2020; and (d) the map and certificate attached to the parties' supplement to the agreed proposed notice of approval filed on June 30, 2020.
24. On July 22, 2020, the applicants filed an agreed supplemental motion to admit evidence on behalf of the parties.

25. In Order No. 14 filed on August 14, 2020, the ALJ admitted into evidence the City of Cresson's rate schedule for customers in the proposed new CCN number 13284, which was attached to the parties' July 22, 2020 motion.

Sale

26. In Order No. 9 filed February 12, 2020, the ALJ approved the transaction to proceed and required the applicants to file proof that the transaction had closed and that customer deposits had been addressed.

27. On March 24 and 25, 2020, the applicants filed notice that the sale had closed effective as of March 13, 2020 and that Bluebonnet held no customer deposits to transfer as part of the transaction.

28. In Order No. 10 filed on April 13, 2020, the ALJ found the closing documents sufficient.

System Compliance—Texas Water Code (TWC) § 13.301(e)(3)(A); 16 Texas Administrative Code (TAC) §§ 24.227(a), 24.239(h)(3)(A), (h)(5)(I)

29. The City of Cresson has not been subject to any enforcement action by the Commission, the TCEQ, the Texas Department of State Health Services, the Office of the Attorney General of Texas, or the Environmental Protection Agency in the past five years for non-compliance with rules, orders, or state statutes.

30. The City of Cresson does not have any violations listed in the TCEQ database.

31. There is no evidence that the City of Cresson has a history of continuing mismanagement or misuse of revenues as a utility service provider.

32. The City of Cresson demonstrated a compliance status that is adequate for approval of the application.

Adequacy of Existing Service—TWC § 13.246(c)(1); 16 TAC §§ 24.227(e)(1), 24.239(h)(5)(A)

33. Bluebonnet's public water system number 1840086 has a violation listed in the TCEQ database for insufficient production capacity.

34. Bluebonnet's public water system number 1840086 needs improvements that will be implemented by the City of Cresson following the transaction. Specifically, the City of Cresson has obtained approval from the TCEQ to construct a new well to ensure sufficient capacity.

35. Additionally, the City of Cresson has received a grant from the Texas Department of Agriculture which will fund the necessary improvements.
36. Other than the capacity problem, Bluebonnet's public water system number 1840086, which will be taken over by the City of Cresson, is capable of providing drinking water that meets the requirements of chapter 341 of the Texas Health and Safety Code, TCEQ rules, and chapter 13 of the TWC.
37. Once the well is constructed, the public water system will have access to an adequate supply of water.

Need for Additional Service—TWC § 13.246(c)(2); 16 TAC §§ 24.227(e)(2), 24.239(h)(5)(B)

38. There are currently 164 existing customers in the requested area that are receiving water from Bluebonnet's public water system number 1840086 and have an ongoing need for service.
39. This application is to transfer only existing facilities, customers, and service area.
40. There is no evidence in the record indicating a need for additional service.

Effect of Approving the Transaction and Granting the Amendment—TWC § 13.246(c)(3); 16 TAC §§ 24.227(e)(3), 24.239(h)(5)(C)

41. Bluebonnet and the City of Cresson are the only utilities affected by this transfer.
42. Any landowners in the requested area that do not currently receive service from Bluebonnet will need to request service from the City of Cresson if they require service after the transaction has been completed.
43. The quality of service provided in the requested area is expected to improve with the transfer because the City of Cresson is better qualified to maintain and improve the system.

Ability to Serve: Managerial and Technical—TWC §§ 13.241(a) and (b), 13.246(c)(4), 13.301(b) and (e)(2); 16 TAC §§ 24.227(a) and (e)(4), and 24.239(e) and (h)(5)(D)

44. Cresson has a public water system registered with the TCEQ under public water system identification number 1260053 and does not have violations listed in the TCEQ database.
45. Cresson has a demonstrated history of successfully providing continuous and adequate retail water service since 2004.

46. Cresson has a TCEQ-licensed operator who will be responsible for the operation of the public water system being transferred.
47. Cresson filed documentation demonstrating that the needed improvements to the public water system being transferred will be implemented and that construction of the needed new well has been approved by the TCEQ.
48. Cresson has the managerial and technical capability to provide continuous and adequate service to the requested area.

Ability to Serve: Financial Ability and Stability—TWC §§ 13.241(a), 13.246(c)(6), 13.301(b); 16 TAC §§ 24.11(e), 24.227(a) and (e)(6), and 24.239(e) and (h)(5)(F)

49. Cresson meets at least two out of the five leverage tests: (a) the City of Cresson has a debt to equity ratio of 0.16, which is less than one; and (b), the City of Cresson has unrestricted cash available that is greater than two years of debt service.
50. The City of Cresson demonstrated that it has sufficient cash available to cover any projected operations and maintenance shortages in the first five years of operations after completion of the transaction, thus meeting the operations test.
51. The City of Cresson has demonstrated the financial capability and stability to provide continuous and adequate service to the requested area.

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

52. There is no need to require the City of Cresson to provide a bond or other financial assurance to ensure continuous and adequate service.

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

53. Because the requested area will not require construction of a physically separate water system, consideration of regionalization or consolidation is not required.

Feasibility of Obtaining Service from Adjacent Retail Public Utility—TWC § 13.246(c)(5); 16 TAC §§ 24.227(e)(5), 24.239(h)(5)(E)

54. The requested area is currently being served by Bluebonnet and there will be no changes to land uses or existing CCN boundaries. Therefore, it is not feasible to obtain service from another utility.

Environmental Integrity and Effect on the Land—TWC § 13.246(c)(7) and (c)(9); 16 TAC §§ 24.227(e)(7) and (e)(9), 24.239(h)(5)(G)

55. The environmental integrity of the land will be minimally affected by the construction of the new well aimed at improving the public water system being transferred.
56. The requested area will continue to be served by existing facilities and only minimal additional construction is needed. Therefore, there will be minimal effect on the land.

Improvement in Service or Lowering Cost to Consumers—TWC § 13.246(c)(8); 16 TAC §§ 24.227(e)(8,) 24.239(h)(5)(H)

57. The City of Cresson will provide water service to the existing customers in the requested area and will make improvements to better serve the customers.
58. The rates charged to customers will change slightly. Specifically, the City of Cresson will charge the same rates in the requested area that it charges to its existing customers. However, although the City of Cresson's rate formula is slightly different than Bluebonnet's rate formula, the actual rates paid by the typical customer are expected to be roughly equivalent.

Certificate and Map

59. On May 14, 2020, Commission Staff emailed to Bluebonnet the proposed map and to the City of Cresson the proposed map and certificate related to this docket.
60. On May 28, 2020, the applicants filed their consent forms concurring with the proposed map and certificate.
61. The proposed map and certificate were filed as an attachment to the supplement to the agreed proposed notice of approval filed on June 30, 2020.
62. Bluebonnet has sold and transferred all of its facilities and service area under water CCN number 12290 to the City of Cresson.

Informal Disposition

63. More than 15 days have passed since the completion of the notice provided in this docket.
64. No person filed a protest or motion to intervene.
65. Bluebonnet, the City of Cresson, and Commission Staff are the only parties to this proceeding.

66. No hearing is needed.
67. Commission Staff recommended approval of the application.
68. This decision is not adverse to any party.

II. Conclusions of Law

The Commission makes the following conclusions of law.

1. The Commission has authority over this proceeding under TWC §§ 13.241, 13.244, 13.246, 13.251, and 13.301.
2. Bluebonnet and the City of Cresson are retail public utilities, as defined by TWC § 13.002(19) and 16 TAC § 24.3(31).
3. Public notice of the application was provided as required by TWC § 13.301(a)(2) and 16 TAC § 24.239(a) through (c).
4. The Commission processed the application in accordance with the requirements of TWC, the Administrative Procedure Act,¹ and Commission rules.
5. Bluebonnet and the City of Cresson completed the sale within the time required by 16 TAC § 24.239(m).
6. Bluebonnet and the City of Cresson complied with the requirements of 16 TAC § 24.239(k) with respect to customer deposits.
7. After consideration of the factors in TWC § 13.246(c), the City of Cresson demonstrated adequate financial, managerial, and technical capability for providing adequate and continuous service in the requested area as required by TWC § 13.301(b).
8. It is not necessary for the City of Cresson to provide a bond or other financial assurance under TWC §§ 13.246(d) and 13.301(c).
9. Bluebonnet and the City of Cresson demonstrated that the sale of Bluebonnet's water system will serve the public interest and is necessary for the continued service, accommodation, convenience, and safety of the public as required by TWC §§ 13.246(b) and 13.301(d), (e).

¹ Tex. Gov't Code §§ 2001.001– 903.

10. The City of Cresson must record a certified copy of the certificate granted along with map approved by this Order, along with a boundary description of the service area, in the real property records of Parker and Johnson counties within 31 days of this Order and submit to the Commission evidence of the recording as required by TWC § 13.257(r) and (s).
11. 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 the sale and transfer of all of Bluebonnet's facilities and service area under water CCN number 12290 to the City of Cresson, the cancellation of water CCN number 12290, and the amendment of the City of Cresson's CCN number 11472 to include the area previously included in Bluebonnet's CCN number 12290, to the extent provided in this Order.
2. The Commission issues the certificate attached to this Order.
3. The Commission approves the map attached to this Order.
4. The City of Cresson must serve every customer and applicant for service within the approved area under water CCN number 11472 who requests water service and otherwise meets the terms for the City of Cresson's water service, and such service must be adequate and continuous.
5. The City of Cresson must comply with the recording requirements as provided in TWC § 13.257(r) and (s) for the areas in Parker and Johnson counties affected by the application and submit to the Commission evidence of the recording no later than 45 days after the receipt of this Order.
6. The Commission denies all other motions and any other requests for general or specific relief, not expressly granted herein.

Signed at Austin, Texas the 10th day of September 2020.

PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF TEXAS



DEANN T. WALKER, CHAIRMAN



ARTHUR C. D'ANDREA, COMMISSIONER



SHELLY BOTKIN, COMMISSIONER



Public Utility Commission of Texas

By These Presents Be It Known To All That

City of Cresson

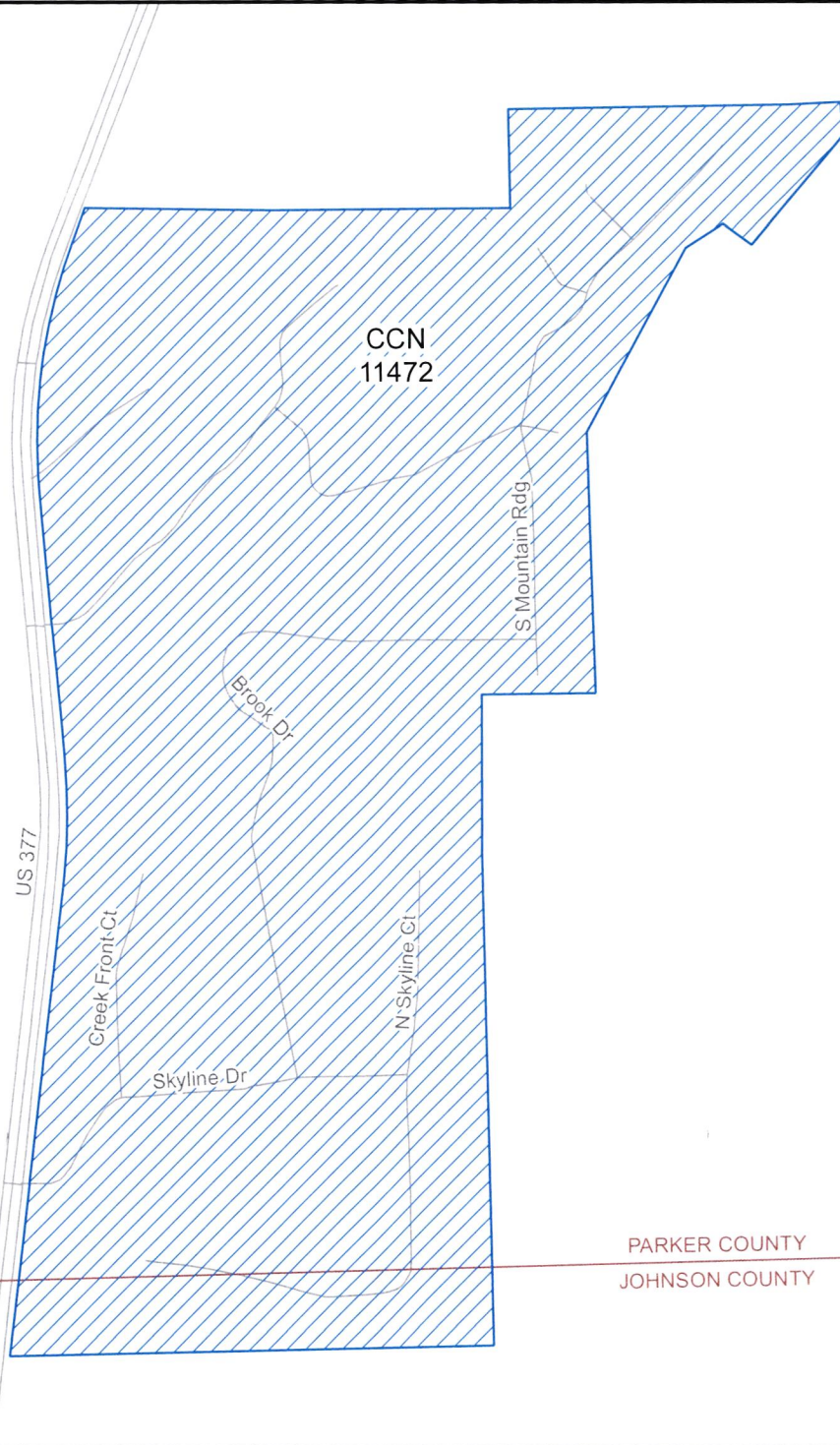
having obtained certification to provide water utility service for the convenience and necessity of the public, and it having been determined by this Commission that the public convenience and necessity would in fact be advanced by the provision of such service, City of Cresson is entitled to this

Certificate of Convenience and Necessity No. 11472

to provide continuous and adequate water utility service to that service area or those service areas in Johnson and Parker Counties as by final Order or Orders duly entered by this Commission, which Order or Orders resulting from Docket No. 48680 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 the City of Cresson 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 10th day of September 2020.

Cresson Water Works
Portion of Water CCN No. 11472
PUC Docket No. 48680
Transferred all of Bluebonnet Hills Water Supply Corporation, CCN No. 12290 in
Johnson and Parker Counties



Water CCN

 11472 - Cresson Water Works

