



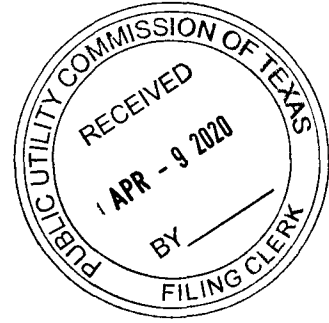
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SOAH DOCKET NO. 473-20-1117.WS
PUC DOCKET NO. 48697



49

**APPLICATION OF ANDERSON
WATER COMPANY, INC. FOR
AUTHORITY TO CHANGE RATES**

**§
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§**

**BEFORE THE STATE OFFICE
OF
ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS**

JOINT REQUEST FOR MEDIATION AND REQUEST TO ABATE PROCEDURAL SCHEDULE

COMES NOW the Staff (Staff) of the Public Utility Commission of Texas (Commission), representing the public interest, and Anderson Water Company, Inc. (Anderson) (collectively, the Parties) and file this Joint Request for Mediation and Request to Abate Procedural Schedule. In support thereof, the Parties would show the following:

I. BACKGROUND

On October 1, 2018, Anderson filed an application with the Commission for a water rate/tariff change with an effective date of November 28, 2018, under Certificate of Convenience and Necessity (CCN) No. 11675 in Grimes County.

On March 23, 2020, the State Office of Administrative Hearings (SOAH) Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) issued SOAH Order No. 5, establishing a procedural schedule. This schedule required Anderson's direct testimony to be filed by March 20, 2020. Anderson has indicated that due to the COVID-19 situation, it was unable to have its testimony notarized until after the deadline.

II. REQUEST TO ABATE PROCEDURAL SCHEDULE AND FOR REFERRAL TO MEDIATION

The Parties have conferred regarding the most effective manner in which the remaining issues in this docket may be resolved and believe that it may be fruitful for the parties to engage in settlement negotiations with the assistance of a SOAH mediator. To avoid the unnecessary accrual of rate case expenses, the Parties are in agreement that a 60 day abatement of the existing procedural schedule would allow for sufficient time for the parties to move towards a settlement.

The Parties therefore request that the court abate this matter for 60 days, and that the SOAH ALJ refer this case to a SOAH mediator so that the parties may work toward a resolution in this matter. The Parties further represent that Anderson has agreed to a day-for-day extension of the effective date for the period that the case is abated. If no agreement is reached between the Parties during mediation, Staff will confer with Anderson and will submit an updated proposed procedural schedule and status report by the conclusion of the abatement period.

III. CONCLUSION

The Parties would respectfully request that the existing procedural schedule be abated for a period of 60-days and that this docket be referred to a SOAH mediator for mediation.

Dated: April 7, 2020

Respectfully submitted,

**PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF TEXAS
LEGAL DIVISION**

Rachelle Nicolette Robles
Division Director

Eleanor D'Ambrosio
Managing Attorney

/s/ John Harrison

John Harrison
State Bar No. 24097806
1701 N. Congress Avenue
P.O. Box 13326
Austin, Texas 78711-3326
(512) 936-7277
(512) 936-7268 (facsimile)
John.Harrison@puc.texas.gov

ANDERSON WATER COMPANY

Tessica Sechelski

Jessica Sechelski
Representative
Anderson Water Company

04/07/2020
04 34 PM GMT

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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 April 7, 2020, in accordance with the Order Suspending Rules, issued in Project No. 50664.

/s/ John Harrison
John Harrison