



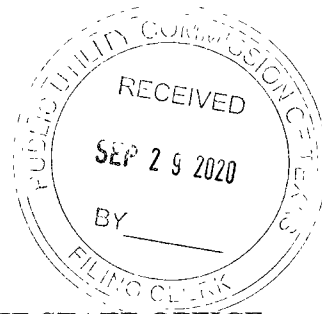
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SOAH DOCKET NO. 473-20-1117.WS
PUC DOCKET NO. 48697



APPLICATION OF ANDERSON § BEFORE THE STATE OFFICE
 §
WATER COMPANY, INC. FOR § OF
 §
AUTHORITY TO CHANGE RATES § ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS

SOAH ORDER NO. 8
RULING ON MOTION FOR INTERIM RATES

Staff of the Public Utility Commission of Texas (Commission) filed a motion for interim rates, asserting that Anderson Water Company, Inc. (Anderson) began charging its proposed rates in May 2019, notwithstanding its agreement to suspend the effective date beyond the suspension period the Commission may impose by statute.¹ Because Anderson's position on the motion and assertions therein was unknown, on September 4, 2020, the Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) issued State Office of Administrative Hearings (SOAH) Order No. 7, requiring that Anderson file a response to the motion for interim rates no later than September 15, 2020. To date, no response has been filed.

In support of its motion, Staff asserts that interim rates are appropriate because the proposed rate increase "could result in an unreasonable economic hardship on the utility's customers".² However, Staff's motion makes no showing that the proposed rate increase meets the standard for interim rates. Although Staff asserts that the applicant began charging its proposed increase prematurely, this in itself does not demonstrate how the proposed rate increase could result in an unreasonable economic hardship, as required by the rule.


Therefore, Staff's motion for interim rates is **DENIED**.

¹ Commission Staff's Motion for Interim Rates (Aug. 17, 2020).

² 16 Tex. Admin. Code § 24.37(d).

Additionally, the parties are reminded that the failure to comply with an order is subject to sanctions.³

SIGNED September 29, 2020.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Daniel Wiseman", is written over a horizontal line.

DANIEL WISEMAN
ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE
STATE OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS

³ See Tex. Gov't Code § 2003.049(i)(3) (failure to obey order issued by ALJ), (j) (listing sanctions); 16 Tex. Admin. Code § 22.161(b)(3), (c) (same).