



Control Number: 49421



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SOAH DOCKET NO. 473-19-3864
PUC DOCKET NO. 49421

APPLICATION OF CENTERPOINT ENERGY HOUSTON ELECTRIC, LLP FOR AUTHORITY TO CHANGE RATES § **BEFORE THE STATE OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS**

STAFF'S PROPOSED PROCEDURAL SCHEDULE

COMES NOW the Staff (Staff) of the Public Utility Commission of Texas (Commission), representing the public interest, and files this Commission Staff's Proposed Procedural Schedule, and would show the following:

Staff shares the concerns raised by the intervenors in the Intervenors' Joint Proposed Procedural Schedule (Intervenors' Procedural Schedule). Staff appreciates any time that may be allocated to providing Staff experts with sufficient time to analyze the application, conduct discovery, and prepare testimony. However, Staff files a separate procedural schedule in order to align with the State Office of Administrative Hearings (SOAH) administrative law judges' (ALJ) request to ensure eight weeks for the ALJs to be able to draft and issue a proposal for decision.¹

In the event the ALJs adopt Staff's schedule, Staff requests that the response time on discovery be modified to permit sufficient time for Staff to review responses in preparation of testimony and to develop the case. Staff has been diligent in requesting the information it needs, asking the first set of requests for information (RFIs) within five days of the application being filed. The responses to Staff's first set of RFIs were served on April 24, 2019, roughly three weeks before testimony would be due under the procedural schedule proposed by CenterPoint at the prehearing conference. Staff also notes that the Commission's preliminary order listing issues to be addressed will not be available until May 9, 2019, at the earliest. To the extent that CenterPoint is required to file additional information to address any issues in the preliminary order, parties would have little to no opportunity to address such testimony, much less receive responses to RFIs on the testimony.

¹ SOAH Order No. 1 at 3.

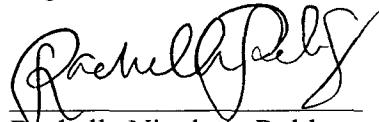
For the reasons detailed above, Staff respectfully recommends the adoption of the attached procedural schedule in order to comport with the ALJs' time constraints listed in Order No. 1, or, in the alternative, the adoption of the Intervenor's Procedural Schedule.

DATE: April 26, 2019

Respectfully Submitted,

Margaret Uhlig Pemberton
Division Director
Legal Division

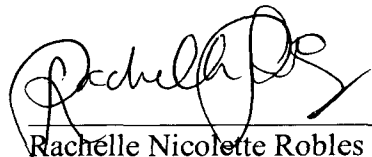
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I certify that a copy of this document will be served on all parties of record on April 26, 2019 in accordance with 16 TAC § 22.74.



Rachelle Nicolette Robles

EXHIBIT A

Proposed Schedule for SOAH Docket No. 473-19-3864/PUC Docket No. 49421

<u>Event</u>	<u>Deadline</u>
Case filed	April 5, 2019
Staff recommendation on sufficiency of notice	April 15, 2019
Prehearing conference	April 23, 2019
Lists of Issues	April 24, 2019
Motions on material deficiency of application	April 26, 2019
Open Meeting (possible adoption of preliminary order)	May 9, 2019
Intervention deadline	May 20, 2019
Affidavit of notice	May 20, 2019
Objections to CenterPoint's direct testimony	May 20, 2019
Replies to objections to CenterPoint's direct testimony	May 24, 2019
Intervenor direct testimony	June 3, 2019
Deadline for discovery on CenterPoint's direct testimony	June 10, 2019
Staff direct testimony	June 10, 2019
Objections to Intervenor and Staff direct testimony	June 12, 2019
Deadline for discovery on Intervenor and Staff direct testimony	June 12, 2019
Replies to objections to Intervenor and Staff direct testimony	June 14, 2019
CenterPoint rebuttal testimony	June 17, 2019
Intervenor and Staff cross-rebuttal testimony	June 17, 2019
Objections to CenterPoint rebuttal testimony	June 19, 2019
Objections to Staff and Intervenor cross-rebuttal	June 19, 2019
Deadline for discovery on CenterPoint's rebuttal testimony	June 19, 2019
Deadline for discovery on Intervenor and Staff cross-rebuttal testimony	June 19, 2019
Statements of Position required by 1 TAC § 22.124	June 19, 2019
Replies to objections to CenterPoint rebuttal testimony	June 21, 2019
Replies to objections to Staff and Intervenor cross-rebuttal testimony	June 21, 2019
Prehearing Conference	June 25, 2019
Hearing on the Merits	June 25-28, 2019
Initial briefs	July 3, 2019
Reply briefs	July 9, 2019
Issuance of PFD	September 7, 2019
PUCT Open Meeting	September 12, 2019; September 26, 2019
Statutory 185-day deadline	October 7, 2019

- Requests for information that are received after 3:00 p.m. on Monday through Thursday shall be deemed to have been received the following business day.

- If the due date for the written response to the motion to compel falls within the hearing on the merits, the receiving party may provide an oral response to the motion to compel.
- Discovery:
 - Deadline for responses to discovery requests: 10 calendar days
 - Deadline for objections: 5 calendar days
 - Deadline for motions to compel: 5 calendar days
 - Deadline for responses to motions to compel: 3 calendar days
- Drafts of testimony, and accompanying emails transmitting and discussing the drafts of testimony, are not discoverable.
- Service by email is a valid method of service.