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DOCKET NO. 51610

APPLICATION OF MARKOUT	§	PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
WATER SUPPLY CORPORATION AND	§	
THE CITY OF MESQUITE FOR SALE,	§	OF TEXAS
TRANSFER, OR MERGER OF	§	
FACILITIES AND CERTIFICATE	§	
RIGHTS IN KAUFMAN COUNTY	§	

**CITY OF MESQUITE’S RESPONSE TO THE COMMISSION STAFF’S
RECOMMENDATION OF SUFFICIENCY OF CLOSING DOCUMENTS**

On September 15, 2021, the Commission Staff submitted their recommendation on the sufficiency of the closing documents submitted by the City of Mesquite (City). Order No. 7 directed the City to respond to the sufficiency recommendation by October 1, 2021. Therefore, the City’s response is timely filed.

I. MEMBERSHIP FEES ARE NOT CUSTOMER DEPOSITS

The Commission Staff claims that the City’s closing documents are not sufficient because the City has not provided the information regarding customer deposits required by 16 Texas Administrative Code (TAC) § 24.239 (k) and (l). Specifically, subsection (k) of Section 24.239 requires documentation on the disposition of the customer deposits supported by an affidavit that include the following information: (1) the name and address of all the customers who have deposits on record; (2) the date the deposit was made; (3) the amount of the deposit; and (4) the unpaid interest on the deposit. The Commission Staff contends that the Membership Fees collected from (and now returned to) the members of the Markout Water Supply Corporation should be treated as customer deposits and that Mesquite and/or Markout must provide the same information for the disposition of the Membership Fees that is required for the disposition of customer deposits. Membership Fees are not and should not be treated as customer deposits because a Membership

Fee is the fee securing each of Markout's member's stock or right of participation in the water supply corporation.

Markout is a member-owned non-profit water supply corporation. As a non-profit member-owned corporation, Markout may establish conditions for membership, and may issue certificates or other instruments evidencing membership rights. *See* Tex. Business Organizations Code § 22.151; *see also* Section B.1 of Markout Water Supply Corporation's Tariff, attached hereto as Exhibit A. Markout defines a "Member" as a "person . . . who holds a membership in the Corporation and who is a record owner of fee simple title to the property in an area served by the . . . corporation or a person who is granted a membership and who either currently receives or will be eligible to receive water . . . utility service from the Corporation." *See* Markout's Tariff at Section C; *see also* 16 TAC § 24.3(19). "Membership" is defined as "[a] non-interest-bearing stock or right of participation purchased from the Corporation evidencing a Member's interest in the Corporation." *See* Markout's Tariff at Section C. The "Membership Fee" is "[a] fee qualified as such under the terms of the Tariff and the bylaws of the Corporation assigned to the real estate designated to receive service." *See* Markout's Tariff at Section C. Upon payment of the Membership Fee, and meeting other requirements for membership, the Member is entitled to one service connection and one share of Markout's stock. *See* Section E.19 of Markout's Tariff. The Membership Fee secures the Member's ownership in the Corporation and the Member's right to participate in the Corporation.

Unlike customer deposits, the Memberships (and rights to the Membership Fee) may be transferred by will or to a related person, and may be transferred as part of the conveyance of the associated real property. *See* Tex. Water Code § 67.016; Section E.19 of Markout's Tariff. Moreover, Members are not necessarily customers receiving water service from the water supply

corporation. The member may be a landowner that leases his or her property to a person that receives the water service from the corporation. Additionally, under Texas Water Code § 13.043(g), membership fees are treated differently than other charges of a water supply corporation and are not appealable under the Water Code. Because the Membership Fees are not deposits, the Membership Fees have not accrued interest and are specifically described in Markout's Tariff as non-interest bearing. Additionally, date the Membership Fee was originally submitted to Markout and the stock issued is not known for all of the Members because of transfers of the Memberships and other record keeping issues.

Finally, Markout Water Supply Corporation's Tariff does not require a customer deposit.

For the foregoing reasons, the City respectfully requests that the Membership Fees not be treated as customer deposits.

II. THE CITY HAS REFUNDED THE MEMBERSHIP FEES

As part of the process to dissolve the Markout Water Supply Corporation, the Membership Fees have been returned to the Members of the corporation. Essentially, Markout has repurchased the stocks the Members held in the corporation. The return of the Membership Fees was completed by September 17, 2021. *See* Affidavit of Mark Kerby, attached hereto as Exhibit B. Because most of the Members were also customers of Markout, and are now the customers of the City, Attachment 1 to the Affidavit, which contains the names and addresses and Membership Fee amounts of the Members, has been redacted and will be filed confidentially as per the requirements of Texas Utilities Code § 182.052. The City proposes that the Commission adopt the Protective Order attached hereto as Exhibit C. This Protective Order includes the same terms as the Commission's standard protective order.

III. CONCLUSION

The City respectfully requests that the Membership Fees not be treated as customer deposits and that the Commission find that the City's closing documents sufficient.

Respectfully submitted,

ATTORNEY FOR CITY OF MESQUITE

Emily W. Rogers
State Bar No. 24002863
erogers@bickerstaff.com

Bickerstaff Heath Delgado Acosta LLP
3711 S. MoPac Expressway
Building One, Suite 300
Austin, TX 78746

Telephone: (512) 472-8021
Facsimile: (512) 320-5638

BY: *Emily W. Rogers*
Emily W. Rogers

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that this pleading was provided to all parties of record via electronic mail or regular mail on September 22, 2021 in accordance with the Order Suspending Rules, issued in Project No 50664.

Emily W. Rogers
Emily W. Rogers

Exhibit A

TARIFF

Public Utility Commission Tariff No. 43843

MARKOUT Water Supply Corporation

PO Box 907
Forney, TX 75126
Office 972.564.1250
Fax 972.552.2777

www.markoutwsc.com

MARKOUT WATER



SUPPLY CORP.

P.O. Box 907
Forney, TX 75126

www.markoutwsc.com

Phone: (972) 564-1250

Fax: (972) 552-2777

November 24, 2020

Public Utility Commission of Texas
Central Records
1701 N. Congress, Suite 8-100
Austin, TX 78701

RE: Tariff No. 43843 – Information Tariff Filing of Markout Water Supply Corporation

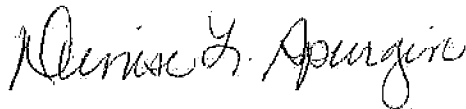
Pursuant to the Public Utility Commission's Water and Sewer Substantive Rules in Chapter 24, Subchapter B, attached is a complete copy of our Tariff which was recently revised and adopted by our Board of Directors. Our rate schedule, which also changed, is incorporated into Section G. Please replace our Tariff on file with this one.

Also attached is a copy of our notice to customers with the old rate sheet and the new rate sheet.

Should you have any questions, please contact me at (972) 564-1250.

Sincerely,

MARKOUT WATER SUPPLY CORPORATION



Denise L. Spurgin, ACS
General Manager
DLS/dls


Attachment: One Hard Copy of Tariff Section G
Notice to Customers of Fee Changes

SECTION A. RESOLUTIONS

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF MARKOUT WATER SUPPLY CORPORATION ESTABLISHES THAT:

1. This Tariff of the Markout Water Supply Corporation, serving in Kaufman County consisting of Sections A through K, is adopted and enacted as the current regulations and policies effective as of September 14, 2020.
2. Only those preexisting written contracts or agreements executed by the present or previous Board of Directors shall remain in effect, unless the contract or agreement requires compliance with changes of the tariff from time to time.
3. The adoption or revision of this Tariff does not prohibit or limit the Corporation from enforcing previous penalties or assessments from before the current effective date.
4. An official copy of this and all policies or records shall be available during regular office hours of the Corporation. The Manager of the Corporation shall maintain the original copy as approved and all previous copies for exhibit.
5. Rules and regulations of state or federal agencies having jurisdiction shall supersede any terms of this policy. If any section, paragraph, sentence, clause, phrase, word, or words of this policy are declared unconstitutional or invalid for any purpose, the remainder of this policy shall not be affected.
6. This tariff has been revised in compliance with the Open Meetings Act, Chapter 551 of the Texas Government Code.

PASSED and APPROVED this 14th day of September, 2020.



Brian Andrews, President
Markout Water Supply Corporation





C. Keith Hughey, Secretary
Markout Water Supply Corporation

SECTION B. STATEMENTS

1. **Organization.** The Markout Water Supply Corporation (“Corporation” or “WSC”) is a member-owned, non-profit corporation incorporated pursuant to the Texas Water Code Chapter 67, and the provisions of the Texas Business Organizations Code applicable to member-owned member-controlled non-profit corporations for the purpose of furnishing potable water and or sewer utility service. Corporation operating policies, rates, and regulations are adopted by the Board of Directors elected by the Members of the Corporation.
2. **Non-Discrimination Policy.** Membership in the Corporation and service is provided to all Applicants who comply with the provisions of this Tariff regardless of race, creed, color, national origin, sex, disability, or marital status.
3. **Policy and Rule Application.** These policies, rules, and regulations apply to the water and sewer services provided by the Corporation. Failure on the part of the Member, Customer, or Applicant to observe these policies, rules and regulations gives the Corporation the authority to deny or discontinue service according to the terms of this Tariff as amended from time to time by the Board of Directors of the Corporation.
4. **Corporation Bylaws.** The Corporation Members have adopted bylaws which establish the make-up of the Board of Directors and other important regulations of the Corporation. The bylaws are on file at the Corporation’s office.
5. **Fire Protection Responsibility.** The Corporation does not provide nor imply that fire protection is available throughout the distribution system, except where expressly required by municipal ordinance or agreed to by Markout WSC. All hydrants or flush valves are for the operation and maintenance of the system and may be used by authorized fire departments in accordance with a contract with the Corporation to supply water for use in fire suppression. The Corporation reserves the right to remove any hydrant, due to improper use or detriment to the system as determined by the Corporation, at any time without notice, refund, or compensation to the contributors unless such hydrants are installed pursuant to the terms of a Non-Standard Service Contract as provided for in Section F, in which event the terms and conditions of the Contract shall apply.
6. **Damage Liability.** The Corporation is not liable for damages caused by service interruptions, events beyond its control, and for normal system failures. The limit of liability of the Corporation is the extent of the cost of service provided. By acceptance of Membership, Member consents to waiver of such liability.
7. **Information Disclosure.** The records of the Corporation shall be kept in the Corporation office in Forney, Texas. All information collected, assembled, or maintained by or for the Corporation shall be disclosed to the public in accordance with the Texas Public Information Act. **In no event and under no circumstances shall the Corporation disclose the Social Security Number of any member or customer to any person other than an employee of the Corporation.** An individual customer may request in writing that their address, telephone number, and account records be kept confidential. Such confidentiality does not prohibit the utility from disclosing this information to an official or employee of the state or a political subdivision of the state acting in an official capacity or an employee of the Corporation acting in connection with the employee’s duties. Further, such confidentiality does not prohibit the Corporation from disclosing the name and address of each

member entitled to vote on a list to be made available to the Corporation's voting members, or their agents or attorneys, in connection with a meeting of the Corporation's members. The Corporation shall give its applicants and customers notice of rights to confidentiality under this policy and all prevailing associated fees for such request.

8. **Customer Notice Provisions.** The Corporation shall give written notice of monthly rate changes by mail or hand delivery to all consumers at least 30 days prior to the effective date of the new rate. The notice shall contain the old rates, new rates, effective date of the new rate, date of Board authorization, and the name and phone number of the Corporation's contact person designated to address inquiries about the rate change.
9. **Grievance Procedures.** Any Member of the Corporation or individual demonstrating an interest under the policies of this Tariff in becoming a Member of the Corporation shall have an opportunity to voice concerns or grievances to the Corporation by the following means and procedures:
 - a. By presentation of concerns to the Corporation's manager or authorized staff member. If not resolved to the satisfaction of the aggrieved party then,
 - b. By presenting a letter to the Board of Directors stating the individual's grievance or concern and the desired result.
 - c. The Board of Directors shall respond to the complaint by communicating the Board's decision in writing.
 - d. Any charges or fees contested as a part of the complaint in review by the Corporation under this policy shall be suspended until a satisfactory review and final decision has been made by the Board of Directors.
10. **Customer Service Inspections.** The Corporation requires that a customer service inspection certification be completed prior to providing continuous water service to new construction and for all new members as part of the activation of standard and some non-standard service. Customer service inspections are also required on any existing service when the Corporation has reason to believe that cross-connections or other potential contaminant hazards exist, or after any material improvement, correction or addition to the members' water distribution facilities. This inspection is limited to the identification and prevention of cross connections, potential contaminant hazards and illegal lead materials. (30 TAC 290.46(j)) (See Tariff Section G. 4.)
11. **Submetering Responsibility.** Submetering and Non-Submetering by Master Metered Accounts may be allowed in the Corporation's water distribution or sewer collection system provided the Master Metered Account customer complies with the Public Utility Commission, Chapter 24, Subchapter H rules pertaining to Submetering. The Corporation has no jurisdiction or responsibility to the tenants; tenants receiving water under a Master Metered Account are not considered customers of the Corporation. Any interruption or impairment of water service to the tenants is the responsibility of the Master Metered Account Customer. Any complaints regarding submetering should be directed to the Public Utility Commission.

NOTE: The system should check with the Master Metered Account Customer to:

- See if they have registered with the PUC, (Texas Water Code Chapter 13 Subchapter M.)
- See that they do not charge their tenants more than the total amount of charges billed. If the aggregate bill is greater than the Corporation's charge, the Master Metered Account Customer is considered by the PUC to be a separate Public Water System and will be required to comply with all PUC regulations.
- Protect the System's CCN. Should the Master Metered Account Customer continue to violate these or other State regulations, the Corporation will need to request a Cease and Desist Order from the PUC. (Texas Water Code Section 13.252 and 16 TAC Section 24.118)

12. ***Plumbing Code Policy.*** The Corporation's board has approved the International Plumbing Code 2018 Edition for all residential and commercial plumbing facilities. (30 TAC Chapter 290)

13. ***Prohibition Against Resell of Water.*** The meter and/or sewer connection is for the sole use of the Member or customer and is to provide service to only one (1) dwelling or one (1) business. Extension of pipe(s) to share or resell water to any other persons, dwellings, businesses, or property, etc., is prohibited.

SECTION C. DEFINITIONS

Active Service – The status of any Member receiving authorized service under the provisions of this Tariff.

Active Connection – Water or sewer connections currently being used to provide retail water or sewer service, or wholesale service.

Applicant – A person, partnership, cooperative corporation, corporation, agency, public or private organization of any type applying for service with the Markout Water Supply Corporation. A person must have reached age of majority (18) in Texas to apply for service. (Section 129.001, Civil Practice & Remedies Code)

Base Rate – The monthly charge assessed each Member/Customer for the opportunity of receiving service. The Base Rate is a fixed rate based upon the meter size as set forth in the equivalency chart in Section G.

Board of Directors – The governing body elected by the Members of the Markout Water Supply Corporation that is vested with the management of the affairs of the Corporation. (Section 22.001(1), Texas Business Organizations Code)

Bylaws – The rules pertaining to the governing of the Markout Water Supply Corporation adopted by the Corporation Members. (Section 22.001(2), Texas Business Organizations Code)

Certificate of Convenience and Necessity (CCN) – The authorization granted under Chapter 13 Subchapter G of the Texas Water Code for Markout Water Supply Corporation to provide water and/or sewer utility service within a defined territory. Markout Water Supply Corporation has been issued Certificate Number 10846. Territory defined in the CCN shall be the Certificated Service Area. (See Tariff Section D. Certificated Service Area Map)

Corporation – The Markout Water Supply Corporation. (Section B. 1 of this Tariff)

Developer – Any person, partnership, cooperative corporation, corporation, agency, or public or private organization who subdivides land or requests more than two (2) water or sewer service connections on a single contiguous tract of land [as defined in Section 13.2502 (e)(1) of the Texas Water Code].

Disconnection of Service – The discontinuance of water or sewer service by the Corporation to a Member/Customer.

Easement – A private perpetual dedicated right-of-way for the installation of water and or sewer pipelines and necessary facilities which allows access to property for future operation, maintenance, facility replacement, facility upgrades, and/or installation of additional pipelines (if applicable) for both service to an Applicant and system-wide service. This may also include restrictions on the adjacent area to limit the installation of sewer lines or other facilities that would restrict the use of any area of the easement. (See Sample Application Packet, and sample Right of Way Easement Forms) The easement will be filed in the real property records of the appropriate county or counties.

Equity Buy-In Fee – Each Applicant for new service where a new service tap is necessary shall be

required to achieve parity with the contributions to the construction or acquisition of the Corporations assets related to capacity that have been made previously by existing Members. This fee shall be assessed prior to providing (or reserving service for non-standard service applicants) on a per service unit basis for each property and shall be assigned and restricted to that property for which the service was originally requested. (Tariff Section G. 7.)

Final Plat – A complete plan for the subdivision of a tract of land showing or referencing Local Tax Appraisal Maps, access to public road(s), number and size of lots, location of dedicated water/sewer easements, and location(s) of lakes, streams, or rivers through the property. The Markout Water Supply Corporation shall determine if a plat submitted for the purpose of this Tariff shall qualify as a final plat. For purposes of evaluating Subdivision service requests under Section F, the Corporation may accept preliminary plats or plats awaiting final approval pending execution of agreement for service by the Corporation.

Hazardous Condition – A condition that jeopardizes the health and welfare of the Members/Consumers of the Corporation as determined by the Corporation or regulatory authority.

Inactive Connection – Water or wastewater connections tapped to the applicant’s utility and that are not currently receiving service from the utility.

Indication of Interest Fee – A fee paid by a potential Member of the Corporation for the purpose of determining the feasibility of a construction and /or expansion project. The Indication of Interest Fee may be converted to a Membership Fee upon determination that service to the Applicant is feasible and available. This also applies to applicants applying for, or receiving, Temporary Service. (Tariff Section E. 10 b., and Sample Application Packet - USDA RUS-TX Bulletin 1780-9 (Rev. 01/09))

Installation Fee – A fee charged for all costs necessary for installation of the type of service requested. (See Section G)

Liquidated Membership – A Membership that has been canceled due to delinquent charges or for other reasons as specified in this Tariff.

Member – Any person, partnership, cooperative corporation, corporation, agency, or public or private organization who holds a membership in the Corporation and who is a record owner of fee simple title to the property in an area served by the water supply or sewer service corporation or a person who is granted a membership and who either currently receives or will be eligible to receive water or sewer utility service from the corporation. The member shall be qualified for service and been certified as a member in accordance with the Corporation’s Tariff. (Texas Water Code Section 13.002(11), Texas Water Code Section 67.016(d))

Membership – A non-interest-bearing stock or right of participation purchased from the Corporation evidencing a Member’s interest in the Corporation. (See Tariff Section E. 19 and Texas Business Organizations Code Sections 22.151(c))

Membership Fee – A fee qualified as such under the terms of the Tariff and the bylaws of the Corporation assigned to the real estate designated to receive service. The membership fee shall be refundable upon termination of service and surrendering the Membership by a written request to the Manager of the Corporation within ten (10) days of closing the sale of the property. The membership fee cannot be more than 12 times the minimum monthly base rate. (16 TAC Section 24.3(26) Definitions,

Texas Water Code Section 13.043(g))

Meter Test Fee – A fee assessed by the Corporation upon written request of the Member for testing the accuracy of the meter.

Public Utility Commission (PUC) – State regulatory agency having jurisdiction over water and sewer service utilities and appellate jurisdiction over the rates and fees charged by Non-Profit Water and Sewer Service Corporations

Proof of Ownership – For the purpose of this tariff, applicants for service and membership shall provide proof of ownership of the real estate to be served by deed of trust, warranty deed, or other recorded documentation. (see Texas Property Code, Title 3, Chapter 12, Sections 12.001 and 12.0011)

Rural Utilities Service (RUS) – An agency of the United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development Mission Area that provides loan and grant funds for development of rural water and sewer systems serving communities with a population of less than ten thousand (10,000) people.

Renter – A consumer who rents or leases property from a Member or who may otherwise be termed a tenant. (See Tariff Section E. 18.)

Re-Service – Providing service to an Applicant at a location for which service previously existed and where there is an existing setting for a meter. Costs of such re-servicing shall be based on justifiable expenses in connection with such re-servicing. (See Tariff Section E. 1. b., and Section J Miscellaneous – Request for Service Discontinuation and Membership Cancellation)

Seasonal Disconnect Request – A written request from the Member to suspend service for a period of time not exceeding nine months within a twelve-month period. If service is not reestablished after the ninth month, then service will be in accordance with the re-service requirements in Section E.

Seasonal Reconnect Fee – The fee charged for resumption of service at a location where the member has voluntarily suspended service, in a written request, for a period of time not exceeding nine months within a twelve-month period. The fee is based on the total months for which service is suspended multiplied by the amount of the monthly minimum fee the Corporation charges active customers.

Service Application and Agreement – A written agreement between the Member/Applicant and the Corporation defining the specific type of service requirements requested on the current service application and agreement form, and the responsibilities of each party required before service is furnished. (See Sample Application Packet RUS-TX Bulletin 1780-9 (Rev. 05/17) or Non-Standard Service Contract)

Service Availability Charge – (Also known as “minimum monthly charge”, “minimum”, or the “base rate”.) The monthly charge assessed each Member/Customer for the opportunity of receiving service. The Service Availability Charge is a fixed rate based upon the meter, service size, or equivalent dwelling unit(s).

Service Investigation Fee – A fee for costs associated with determining if service is available and determining cost of service. (See Tariff Sections F.3.c., F.4., and G. 26.)

Service Trip Fee – A fee charged for any service call or trip to the member’s tap as a result of a request

by the Member or tenant for response to damage of the Corporation's or another Member's facilities; for customer service inspections due to suspicion of meter tampering, bypass or diversion of service, or for the purpose of disconnecting or collecting payment for services.

Service Unit – The base unit of service used in facilities design and rate making. For the purpose of this Tariff, a service unit is a 5/8" X 3/4" water meter. Sewer facilities are designed and rates are based on the basis of population served or demand. (See Tariff Section G. 7. And G. 14.)

Subdivide – To divide the surface area of land into lots or tracts intended primarily for residential use. (Texas Local Government Code)

Subdivider – An individual, firm, corporation, or other legal entity that owns any interest in land and that directly or indirectly subdivides land into lots as a part of a common promotional plan in the ordinary course of business. (See also Texas Local Government Code Section 212.012(i)(2) & 232.021(12) Definitions)

Subdivision – An area of land that has been subdivided into lots or tracts. (Local Government Code Section 232.021(13) Definitions)

Tap Fee – All current labor and materials necessary to provide individual metered water or wastewater service.

Tariff – The operating policies, service rules, service extension policy, service rates, water use restriction policies, sample application packet, and miscellaneous transaction forms adopted by the Board of Directors. A copy of this Board-approved Tariff is on file at the Corporation office and as required by law at the State office of the PUC.

Temporary Service – The classification assigned an applicant that is in the process of construction. This could also apply to service for uses other than permanent (agricultural, road construction, drilling, livestock, etc.). The Board will set the length of time associated with this classification. This classification will change to permanent service after requirements in Tariff Sections E. 25, E. 26, E. 27, and E. 28. are met. Applicant must have paid an Indication of Interest Fee.

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) – State regulatory agency having jurisdiction over drinking water, water supply and water quality issues for Non-Profit Water and Sewer Service Corporations.

Transfer Fee – A fee assessed by the Corporation for costs associated with transferring membership.

Transferee – An Applicant receiving a Markout WSC Membership by legal means from a Transferor desiring to forfeit and transfer current rights of Membership to another person or entity. (See Tariff Section E. 9 c., G. 28., and Texas Water Code Section 67.016)

Transferor – A Member who transfers Membership by legal means to another person or entity desiring to qualify for service at a property for which the Membership is currently issued or to the Corporation. (Texas Water Code, Section 67.016)

Usage – Amount billed for water or sewer service based on actual or estimated usage.

- Actual Usage – Amount billed or to be collected based on actual meter reading.

- Estimated Usage – Amount billed or to be collected based on either the member’s historical three-month average usage for the prior months or for the same month of the prior year where data is available. (See Section E; See also PUC Rules 16 TAC §24.87(i) regarding estimated bills.)

Water Conservation Penalty – A penalty that may be assessed under Section H of this Tariff to enforce customer / member water conservation practices during drought contingency or emergency water demand circumstances. (Texas Water Code Section 67.011 (b)).

18. Members and Renters. Any Member having complied with the requirements of this Tariff, renting or leasing property designated to receive service according to the terms of this tariff to other parties, is responsible for all charges due the Corporation. The membership for rental or leased properties shall be in the name of the Member as required by this Tariff. The Corporation may bill the renter or lessee for utility service (at Member Request) as a third party, but the Member is fully responsible for any and all unpaid bills left by the renter/lessee. The Member shall be required to sign an Alternate Billing Agreement if the Member requests that the tenant be billed for utility service. (See Miscellaneous Transaction Forms.) The Member shall take responsibility for any necessary deposits from the renter/lessee to ensure payment of a past due bill. The Corporation will notify the Member of the renter's past due payment status. Such notification will be subject to a service charge (see Miscellaneous Transaction Forms).

If at any time the member requests that membership be canceled thereby discontinuing service to an occupied rental property, the Corporation shall provide written notice to the tenant(s) a minimum of five (5) days prior to the scheduled disconnection date.

19. Membership.

- a. **Eligibility** - Eligibility for Membership shall not guarantee service to the Applicant or Transferee; however, qualification for service is a prerequisite to Membership eligibility for new Applicants or continued Membership for Transferees.
- b. **Membership** - Upon qualification for service, qualification for Membership, payment of the required fees, and any debt owed to the Corporation, the Corporation shall certify the Applicant as a Member. The Membership shall entitle the Member to one (1) connection to the Corporation's water/sewer utility service and one (1) share of Corporation Stock. The Membership entitles the Member to one (1) vote in the election of directors and in such other matters requiring the approval of the Corporation's Members at any Annual or Special Membership Meeting of the Corporation as prescribed by the Corporation Bylaws. Ownership of more than one (1) Membership shall not authorize the Member to cast more than one (1) vote at any annual or special meeting. Each Membership and Stock thereby represented may be assigned to the specified parcel of land originally designated to receive service at the time of application. (Texas Water Code Section 67.016) **NOTE (1):** In the event that the Corporation is conducting a potential Members survey for indications of interest in future service for the purpose of determining the feasibility of an initial construction or expansion project under RUS guidelines (see Sample Application Packet), regular application procedures may be modified. An Indication of Interest Fee may be required prior to qualifications for receipt of service by the Applicant but shall only be used or applied as a Membership Fee for Membership purposes (upon issuance of a Membership) if service is ultimately received or reserved by the Applicant as a result of the planned project facilities. If service is not provided within the scope of this project, Indication of Interest Fees shall be refunded, less expenses, within sixty (60) days of the loan closing with the Rural Utilities Service. **NOTE (2):** In the event the applicant is in the process of construction the Membership will be considered TEMPORARY until such time as the final Customer Service Inspection is completed and the forms are returned as required. (See Section C - Definitions, Section E. 26., G. 4., and Section J – Miscellaneous Forms - CSI Certificate)
- c. **Transfer of Membership.** – (Texas Water Code Section 67.016)
 - 1) A Member is entitled to transfer Membership in the Corporation only under the following circumstances:
 - (a) The Membership is transferred by will to a person related to the Transferor within the second degree by consanguinity; or
 - (b) The Membership is transferred without compensation to a person related to the Transferor within the second degree by consanguinity; or

- (c) The Membership is transferred without compensation or by sale to the Corporation; or
 - (d) The Membership is transferred as a part of the conveyance of real estate from which the Membership arose.
- 2) In the event that Membership is transferred pursuant to the provisions of Subsection 9 c. (1) of this Section, such transfer shall not be completed or recorded on the books and records of the Corporation until such time as the transferor has provided satisfactory evidence to the Corporation of such transfer. A transfer of Membership shall be considered a new application for service and is not binding on the Corporation until such transfer has been approved as provided by Subsection 19 c. 1 of this Section and Subsection 19. C. 3. of this section.
 - 3) Qualifications for service upon transfer of Membership set forth in Subsection 19 c. (1) and 19 c. (2) of this Section shall be subject to approval of the Corporation and shall be recorded on the books and records of the Corporation only upon the following terms and conditions:
 - (a) The Transferee has completed the required Application Packet including granting the Corporation with a private utility easement on the form provided by the Corporation;
 - (b) The membership has not been fully or partially liquidated; and
 - (c) The Transferee demonstrates satisfactory evidence of ownership of the property designated to receive service and from which the Membership originally arose.
 - 4). If the application packet and other information is not completed on the day transfer of membership is requested the corporation will give the transferee written notice of 10 additional days to produce completed documentation to the corporation office. Service will be disconnected on the day following the 10th day according to disconnection with notice requirements. Additional time may be allowed at the directions of the manager or board.
- d. **Cancellation of Membership** – To keep a Membership in good standing, a Base Rate must be paid monthly to the Corporation, whether or not water is used. Failure to pay this monthly charge to the Corporation shall jeopardize the Member’s Membership standing and give rise to liquidation of the Membership Fee and forfeiture of the Membership. A Member may be relieved of this obligation to pay by surrendering the Membership, properly documented, to the Corporation. The Member shall also complete a Service Discontinuance Request Form prior to termination of service. (See Misc. Transaction Forms.) However, a Member is not relieved of any obligations incurred prior to the date of surrender of a properly endorsed Membership prior to termination of service. Rights to future service at this tap shall be extended on an as-available basis and subject to the terms of the Activation of Service Subsection E 7. of this Tariff. (Texas Water Code Section 67.016)
- e. **Liquidation Due To Delinquency** –When the amount of the delinquent charges owed by the Member equals or exceeds the Membership Fee, the Membership Fee shall be liquidated and the Membership canceled and transferred back to the Corporation. In the event the Member leaves a balance due on an account guaranteed under the terms of a Service Application and Agreement, and the delinquent Member owns more than one Membership, the Corporation may liquidate as many of the Member Guarantor’s Membership Fees as necessary to satisfy the balance due the Corporation, provided proper notice has been given (see Tariff Section E, Subsection 11. a. and Activation of Service Subsection E. 1. b. of this Tariff). The Corporation shall collect any remaining account balances by initiation of legal action. Re-instatement of service shall be subject to the terms of the Activation of Service Subsection E 7. of this Tariff.

- f. **Cancellation Due To Policy Non-Compliance** – The Corporation may cancel a Membership anytime a Member fails to comply with policies of the Corporation, including but not limited to Member’s failure to provide proof of ownership of the property from which the Membership arose. (Texas Water Code Section 67.016)
- g. **Re-assignment of Canceled Membership.**
- 1) The Corporation, upon cancellation of Membership under the provisions of this Tariff, may re-assign the canceled Membership to a person or entity that has legal title to the real estate from which the canceled membership arose and for which water or sewer service is requested (Texas Water Code Section 67.016). Membership will not be re-assigned unless the person or entity that has legal title to the real estate has complied with the corporation’s current rates, charges, and conditions of service, including current membership fee, set forth in the tariff and service application package.
 - 2) The Corporation shall reassign a canceled Membership to a person or entity that acquires the real estate from which the Membership arose through judicial or nonjudicial foreclosure. The Corporation will require proof of ownership resulting from the foreclosure and compliance with the corporation’s current rates, charges, and conditions of service, including current membership fee, set forth in the tariff and service application package. In the event of foreclosure by a mortgage institution, the Corporation may allow a property management company to acquire the Membership if the management company provides written documentation showing that the management company is legally responsible for the management of the property and it is not feasible for the mortgage institution to be the Member.
- h. **Cancellation and Re-Assignment of Membership as a Result of Bankruptcy Proceedings** – Upon notice of the filing of a petition in bankruptcy, the Corporation may require the posting of a deposit or other form of security, acceptable to the Corporation, as a condition for continuing utility service. Unless special circumstances require otherwise, the amount of security shall equal the amount of charges for the month of greatest use during the preceding 12 months. The Corporation shall not require the payment of any security prior to the expiration of 20 days following the date on which the petition is filed. Failure to provide this security by the date specified by the Corporation may result in termination of service according to the Disconnection with Notice Provisions of Section E 11. of this Tariff, with a copy of the notice to the bankruptcy Trustee.
- i. **Cancellation and Re-Assignment of Membership as a Result of Divorce (or Dissolution of Joint Tenancy)** – The Corporation shall transfer the membership to a spouse (or joint tenant) who has been awarded the property designated to receive service. The Corporation must be provided adequate documentation of the ownership rights of the spouse (or joint tenant) requesting transfer, such as final divorce decree, temporary court order, or agreement. In no event shall any membership(s) be transferred if the transferee does not otherwise meet the qualifications for membership and for service.

20. Member’s Responsibility.

- a. The Member shall provide access to the meter or sewer tap location as per the easement and/or service agreement. If access to the meter is hindered or denied preventing the reading of the meter, an estimated bill shall be rendered to the Member for the month; and a notice shall be sent to the effect that access could not be gained. If access is denied for three (3) consecutive months after proper notification to the Member, then service shall be discontinued and the meter removed with no further notice. Conditions that may hinder access include, but are not limited to, fences with locked gates, vehicles or objects placed on top of meters or meter boxes, and unrestrained animals.
- b. The Member shall be responsible for compliance with all utility, local, and state codes,

requirements, and regulations concerning on-site service and plumbing facilities.

- 1) All water connections shall be designed to ensure against on-site sewage contamination, back-flow or siphonage into the Corporation's water supply. In particular, livestock water troughs shall be plumbed above the top of the trough with air space between the discharge and the water level in the trough. (30 TAC 290.46, Texas Health & Safety Code Chapter 366)
- 2) The use of pipe and pipe fittings that contain more than 0.25% lead or solder and flux that contain more than 0.2% lead is prohibited for any plumbing installation or repair of any residential or non-residential facility providing water for human consumption and connected to the Corporation's facilities. Customer service pipelines shall be installed by the applicant. (30 TAC 290.46; RUS-TX Bulletin 1780-9 (Rev. 05/17))
- 3) All pipe and fittings used by the customer to convey sewage from its source to the sewer line must be a minimum of D-3034, SDR-35 or equivalent, 4-inch diameter pipe. No DWV (drain waste and vent) pipe or fittings will be allowed. All joints must be water tight and pipe must be installed to recommended grade. All non-household sewer customers who have potential for dirt, grit, sand, grease, oil, or similar substances must install and maintain a trap ahead of their entrance to the Corporation's sewer collection piping. A double cleanout is required at the property line and recommended at the house. The Corporation may impose other site-specific requirements. All sewer and potable water service pipeline installations must be a minimum of nine feet apart and meet all applicable plumbing standards for crossings, etc.

Requirements for Traps:

- (a) Discharges requiring a trap include but are not limited to:
 - (1) grease or waste containing grease in amounts that will impede or stop the flow in the public sewers;
 - (2) oil, flammable wastes;
 - (3) sand, and other harmful ingredients.
- (b) Any person responsible for discharges requiring a trap shall, at his own expense, and as required by the approving authority:
 - (1) Provide equipment and facilities of a type and capacity approved by the approving authority;
 - (2) locate the trap in a manner that provides ready and easy accessibility for cleaning and inspection; and
 - (3) maintain the trap in effective operating condition.
- (c) Approving Authority Review and Approval (By the Board of Directors or Agency):
 - (1) If pretreatment or control is required, the approving authority shall review and approve design and installation of equipment and processes.
 - (2) The design and installation of equipment and processes must conform to all applicable statutes, codes, ordinances and other laws.
 - (3) Any person responsible for discharges requiring pretreatment, flow equalizing or other facilities shall provide and maintain the facilities in effective operating condition at his own expense.

Service shall be discontinued without further notice when installations of new facilities or repair of existing facilities are found to be in violation of this regulation until such time as the violation is corrected.

- c. A Member owning more than one (1) Membership shall keep all payments current on all accounts. Failure to maintain current status on all accounts shall be enforceable as per Service Application and Agreement executed by the Member.

- d. The Corporation's ownership and maintenance responsibility of water supply and metering and sewer equipment shall end at the meter or other service equipment as installed. Therefore, all water usage registering upon and/or damages occurring to the metering equipment owned and maintained by the Corporation shall be subject to charges as determined by the Corporation's Tariff as amended from time to time by the Board of Directors.
- e. The Corporation shall require each Member to have a cut-off valve within two feet of the meter on the Member's side of the meter for purposes of isolating the Member's service pipeline and plumbing facilities from the Corporation's water pressure. The valve shall meet AWWA standards (a ball valve is preferred). The Member's use of the Corporation's curb stop or other similar valve for such purposes is prohibited. Any damage to the Corporation's equipment shall be subject to service charges. (This cut-off valve may be installed as a part of the original meter installation by the Corporation.)
- f. The member is required to notify the system 48 hours prior to digging or excavation activities along or near water/sewer lines and appurtenances.

21. Meter Relocation. Relocation of services shall be allowed by the Corporation provided that:

- a. The relocation is limited to the existing property designated to receive service;
- b. A current easement for the proposed location has been granted to the Corporation; and
- c. The Member pays the actual cost of relocation plus administrative fees.

22. Meter Tampering and Damage to Property.

- a. For purposes of this Section, the term "Tampering" shall mean meter-tampering, by-passing, or diversion of the Corporation's service equipment, or other instances of diversion, including:
 - 1) removing a locking or shut-off device used by the Corporation to discontinue service,
 - 2) physically disorienting the meter or sewer tap,
 - 3) attaching objects to the meter or sewer tap to divert service or to by-pass,
 - 4) inserting objects into the meter or sewer tap,
 - 5) other electrical and mechanical means of tampering with, by-passing, or diverting service,
 - 6) connection or reconnection of service without Corporation authorization;
 - 7) connection into the service line of adjacent customers of the Corporation; and
 - 8) preventing the supply or wastewater discharge from being correctly registered by a metering device or sewer tap due to adjusting the valve so that flow is reduced below metering capability.

The burden of proof of Tampering is on the Corporation. Photographic evidence or any other reliable and credible evidence may be used; however, any evidence shall be accompanied by a sworn affidavit by the Corporation's staff when any action regarding Tampering is initiated. A court finding of Tampering may be used instead of photographic or other evidence, if applicable. Unauthorized users of services of the Corporation shall be prosecuted to the extent allowed by law under the Texas Penal Code Sections 28.03 and 12.21 and 12.22.

- b. If the Corporation determines under subsection (a) that Tampering has occurred, the Corporation shall disconnect service without notice as set forth in Subsection E. 11. b. and charge the person who committed the Tampering the total actual loss to the Corporation, including the cost of repairs, replacement of damaged facilities, and lost water revenues.
- c. A person who otherwise destroys, defaces, damages or interferes with Corporation property will be charged the total actual loss to the Corporation including but not limited to the cost of

Exhibit B

DOCKET NO. 51610

APPLICATION OF MARKOUT	§	PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
WATER SUPPLY CORPORATION AND	§	
THE CITY OF MESQUITE FOR SALE,	§	OF TEXAS
TRANSFER, OR MERGER OF	§	
FACILITIES AND CERTIFICATE	§	
RIGHTS IN KAUFMAN COUNTY	§	

AFFIDAVIT OF MARK KERBY

STATE OF TEXAS §
 §
COUNTY OF DALLAS §

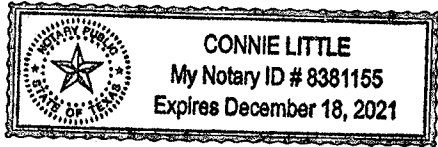
BEFORE ME, the undersigned notary, personally appeared Mark Kerby, the affiant, a person who is known to me. After administering an oath, the affiant testified that:

1. “My name is Mark Kerby. I am over the age of eighteen years, of sound mind, and am capable of making this affidavit. The facts stated in the affidavit are within my personal knowledge and are true and correct.
2. I am the Special Projects Manager for the City of Mesquite (Mesquite).
3. Mesquite, as part of its agreement with Markout Water Supply Corporation (Markout), has returned the Membership Fees to the Members of Markout. The return of the Membership Fees was completed by September 17, 2021.
4. The Members names and addresses, and the amount of the Membership Fee is attached to this Affidavit as Attachment 1. The Membership Fees did not accrue interest, and the dates the Member purchased his or her membership interest in the Corporation is not known for all of the Members.”

FURTHER AFFIANT SAYETH NOT.

Mark K
Mark Kerby, Special Projects Manager
City of Mesquite, Texas

SWORN AND SUBSCRIBED TO BEFORE ME by Mark Kerby on
September 21, 2021.



Connie L. Little
Notary Public State of Texas

Attachment 1

Information filed confidentially

Exhibit C

DOCKET NO. 51610

APPLICATION OF MARKOUT	§	PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
WATER SUPPLY CORPORATION AND	§	
THE CITY OF MESQUITE FOR SALE,	§	OF TEXAS
TRANSFER, OR MERGER OF	§	
FACILITIES AND CERTIFICATE	§	
RIGHTS IN KAUFMAN COUNTY	§	

PROTECTIVE ORDER

This Protective Order governs the use of all information deemed confidential (Protected Materials) or highly confidential (Highly Sensitive Protected Materials), including information whose confidentiality is currently under dispute, by a party providing information to the Public Utility Commission of Texas (Commission) or to any other party to this proceeding.

It is ORDERED that:

1. **Designation of Protected Materials.** Upon producing or filing a document, including, but not limited to, records on a computer disk or other similar electronic storage medium in this proceeding, the producing party may designate that document, or any portion of it, as confidential pursuant to this Protective Order by typing or stamping on its face “PROTECTED PURSUANT TO PROTECTIVE ORDER ISSUED IN DOCKET NO. 51610” (or words to this effect) and consecutively Bates Stamping each page. Protected Materials and Highly Sensitive Protected Materials include the documents so designated, as well as the substance of the information contained in the documents and any description, report, summary, or statement about the substance of the information contained in the documents.
2. **Materials Excluded from Protected Materials Designation.** Protected Materials must not include any information or document contained in the public files of the Commission or any other federal or state agency, court, or local governmental authority subject to the

Public Information Act. Protected Materials also must not include documents or information which at the time of, or prior to disclosure in, a proceeding is or was public knowledge, or which becomes public knowledge other than through disclosure in violation of this Protective Order.

3. **Reviewing Party.** For the purposes of this Protective Order, a “Reviewing Party” is any party to this docket.
4. **Procedures for Designation of Protected Materials.** On or before the date the Protected Materials or Highly Sensitive Protected Materials are provided to the Commission, the producing party is required to file with the Commission and deliver to each party to the proceeding a written statement, which may be in the form of an objection, indicating: (a) any exemptions to the Public Information Act claimed to apply to the alleged Protected Materials; (b) the reasons supporting the producing party’s claim that the responsive information is exempt from public disclosure under the Public Information Act and subject to treatment as protected materials; and (c) that counsel for the producing party has reviewed the information sufficiently to state in good faith that the information is exempt from public disclosure under the Public Information Act and merits the Protected Materials designation.
5. **Persons Permitted Access to Protected Materials.** Except as otherwise provided in this Protective Order, a Reviewing Party may access Protected Materials only through its “Reviewing Representatives” who have signed the Protective Order Certification Form (see Attachment A). Reviewing Representatives of a Reviewing Party include its counsel of record in this proceeding and associated attorneys, paralegals, economists, statisticians, accountants, consultants, or other persons employed or retained by the Reviewing Party

and directly engaged in this proceeding. At the request of the PUC Commissioners, copies of Protected Materials may be produced by Commission Staff. The Commissioners and their staff must be informed of the existence and coverage of this Protective Order and will observe the restrictions of the Protective Order.

6. **Highly Sensitive Protected Material Described.** The term “Highly Sensitive Protected Materials” is a subset of Protected Materials and refers to documents or information that a producing party claims is of such a highly sensitive nature that making copies of such documents or information or providing access to such documents to employees of the Reviewing Party (except as specified herein) would expose a producing party to unreasonable risk of harm. Highly Sensitive Protected Materials include but are not limited to: (a) customer-specific information protected by Texas Utilities Code § 182.052; (b) contractual information pertaining to contracts that specify that their terms are confidential or that are confidential pursuant to an order entered in litigation to which the producing party is a party; and (c) business operations or financial information that is commercially sensitive. Documents or information so classified by a producing party must bear the designation “HIGHLY SENSITIVE PROTECTED MATERIALS PROVIDED PURSUANT TO PROTECTIVE ORDER ISSUED IN DOCKET NO. 51610” (or words to this effect) and must be consecutively Bates Stamped. The provisions of this Protective Order pertaining to Protected Materials also apply to Highly Sensitive Protected Materials, except where this Protective Order provides for additional protections for Highly Sensitive Protected Materials. In particular, the procedures herein for challenging the producing party’s designation of information as Protected Materials also apply to information that a producing party designates as Highly Sensitive Protected Materials.

7. **Restrictions on Copying and Inspection of Highly Sensitive Protected Material.**

Except as expressly provided herein, only one copy may be made of any Highly Sensitive Protected Materials except that additional copies may be made to have sufficient copies for introduction of the material into the evidentiary record if the material is to be offered for admission into the record. The Reviewing Party is required to maintain a record of all copies made of Highly Sensitive Protected Material and must send a duplicate of the record to the producing party when the copy or copies are made. The record must specify the location and the person possessing the copy. Highly Sensitive Protected Material must be made available for inspection only at the location or locations provided by the producing party, except as specified by Paragraph 9. Limited notes may be made of Highly Sensitive Protected Materials, and such notes must themselves be treated as Highly Sensitive Protected Materials unless such notes are limited to a description of the document and a general characterization of its subject matter in a manner that does not state any substantive information contained in the document.

8. **Restricting Persons Who May Have Access to Highly Sensitive Protected Material.**

With the exception of Commission Staff, the Office of the Attorney General (OAG), and the Office of Public Utility Counsel (OPC), and except as provided herein, the Reviewing Representatives for the purpose of access to Highly Sensitive Protected Materials may be persons who are (a) outside counsel for the Reviewing Party, (b) outside consultants for the Reviewing Party working under the direction of Reviewing Party's counsel, or (c) employees of the Reviewing Party working with and under the direction of Reviewing Party's counsel who have been authorized by the presiding officer to review Highly Sensitive Protected Materials. The Reviewing Party must limit the number of

Reviewing Representatives that review Highly Sensitive Protected Materials to the minimum number of persons necessary. The Reviewing Party is under a good faith obligation to limit access to each portion of any Highly Sensitive Protected Materials to two Reviewing Representatives whenever possible. Reviewing Representatives for Commission Staff, OAG, and OPC, for the purpose of access to Highly Sensitive Protected Materials, must consist of their respective counsel of record in this proceeding and associated attorneys, paralegals, economists, statisticians, accountants, consultants, or other persons employed or retained by them and directly engaged in these proceedings.

9. **Copies Provided of Highly Sensitive Protected Material.** A producing party is required to provide one copy of Highly Sensitive Protected Materials specifically requested by the Reviewing Party to the person designated by the Reviewing Party who must be a person authorized to review Highly Sensitive Protected Material under Paragraph 8. Representatives of the Reviewing Party who are authorized to view Highly Sensitive Protected Material may review the copy of Highly Sensitive Protected Materials at the office of the Reviewing Party's representative designated to receive the information. Any Highly Sensitive Protected Materials provided to a Reviewing Party may not be copied except as provided in Paragraph 7. The restrictions contained herein do not apply to Commission Staff, OPC, and the OAG when the OAG is representing a party to the proceeding.
10. **Procedures in Paragraphs 10-14 Apply to Commission Staff, OPC, and the OAG and Control in the Event of Conflict.** The procedures in Paragraphs 10 through 14 apply to responses to requests for documents or information that the producing party designates as Highly Sensitive Protected Materials and provides to Commission Staff, OPC, and the

OAG in recognition of their purely public functions. To the extent the requirements of Paragraphs 10 through 14 conflict with any requirements contained in other paragraphs of this Protective Order, the requirements of these Paragraphs control.

11. **Copy of Highly Sensitive Protected Material to be Provided to Commission Staff, OPC and the OAG.** When, in response to a request for information by a Reviewing Party, the producing party makes available for review documents or information claimed to be Highly Sensitive Protected Materials, the producing party is required to also deliver one copy of the Highly Sensitive Protected Materials to the Commission Staff, OPC (if OPC is a party), and the OAG (if the OAG is representing a party) in Austin, Texas. Provided however, that in the event such Highly Sensitive Protected Materials are voluminous, the materials will be made available for review by Commission Staff, OPC (if OPC is a party), and the OAG (if the OAG is representing a party) at the designated office in Austin, Texas. The Commission Staff, OPC (if OPC is a party) and the OAG (if the OAG is representing a party) may request such copies as are necessary of such voluminous material under the copying procedures specified herein.
12. **Delivery of the Copy of Highly Sensitive Protected Material to Commission Staff and Outside Consultants.** The Commission Staff, OPC (if OPC is a party), and the OAG (if the OAG is representing a party) may deliver the copy of Highly Sensitive Protected Materials received by them to the appropriate members of their staff for review, provided such staff members first sign the certification specified by Paragraph 15. After obtaining the agreement of the producing party, Commission Staff, OPC (if OPC is a party), and the OAG (if the OAG is representing a party) may deliver the copy of Highly Sensitive Protected Materials received by it to the agreed, appropriate members of their outside

consultants for review, provided such outside consultants first sign the certification in Attachment A.

13. **Restriction on Copying by Commission Staff, OPC and the OAG.** Except as allowed by Paragraph 7, Commission Staff, OPC and the OAG may not make additional copies of the Highly Sensitive Protected Materials furnished to them unless the producing party agrees in writing otherwise, or, upon a showing of good cause, the presiding officer directs otherwise. Commission Staff, OPC, and the OAG may make limited notes of Highly Sensitive Protected Materials furnished to them, and all such handwritten notes will be treated as Highly Sensitive Protected Materials as are the materials from which the notes are taken.
14. **Public Information Requests.** In the event of a request for any of the Highly Sensitive Protected Materials under the Public Information Act, an authorized representative of the Commission, OPC, or the OAG may furnish a copy of the requested Highly Sensitive Protected Materials to the Open Records Division at the OAG together with a copy of this Protective Order after notifying the producing party that such documents are being furnished to the OAG. Such notification may be provided simultaneously with the delivery of the Highly Sensitive Protected Materials to the OAG.
15. **Required Certification.** Each person who inspects the Protected Materials must, before such inspection, agree in writing to the following certification found in Attachment A to this Protective Order:

I certify my understanding that the Protected Materials are provided to me pursuant to the terms and restrictions of the Protective Order in this docket, and that I have been given a copy of it and have read the Protective Order and agree to be bound by it. I understand that the contents of the Protected Materials, any notes, memoranda, or any other form of information regarding or derived from the Protected Materials must not be

disclosed to anyone other than in accordance with the Protective Order and unless I am an employee of the Commission or OPC will be used only for the purpose of the proceeding in Docket No. 51610. I acknowledge that the obligations imposed by this certification are pursuant to such Protective Order. Provided, however, if the information contained in the Protected Materials is obtained from independent public sources, the understanding stated herein must not apply.

In addition, Reviewing Representatives who are permitted access to Highly Sensitive Protected Material under the terms of this Protective Order must, before inspection of such material, agree in writing to the following certification found in Attachment A to this Protective Order:

I certify that I am eligible to have access to Highly Sensitive Protected Material under the terms of the Protective Order in this docket.

The Reviewing Party is required to provide a copy of each signed certification to Counsel for the producing party and serve a copy upon all parties of record.

16. **Disclosures between Reviewing Representatives and Continuation of Disclosure Restrictions after a Person is no Longer Engaged in the Proceeding.** Any Reviewing Representative may disclose Protected Materials, other than Highly Sensitive Protected Materials, to any other person who is a Reviewing Representative provided that, if the person to whom disclosure is to be made has not executed and provided for delivery of a signed certification to the party asserting confidentiality, that certification must be executed prior to any disclosure. A Reviewing Representative may disclose Highly Sensitive Protected Material to other Reviewing Representatives who are permitted access to such material and have executed the additional certification required for persons who receive access to Highly Sensitive Protected Material. In the event that any Reviewing Representative to whom Protected Materials are disclosed ceases to be engaged in these proceedings, access to Protected Materials by that person must be terminated and all notes,

memoranda, or other information derived from the protected material must either be destroyed or given to another Reviewing Representative of that party who is authorized pursuant to this Protective Order to receive the protected materials. Any person who has agreed to the foregoing certification is required to continue to be bound by the provisions of this Protective Order so long as it is in effect, even if no longer engaged in these proceedings.

17. **Producing Party to Provide One Copy of Certain Protected Material and Procedures for Making Additional Copies of Such Materials.** Except for Highly Sensitive Protected Materials, which must be provided to the Reviewing Parties under Paragraph 9, and voluminous Protected Materials, the producing party is required to provide a Reviewing Party one copy of the Protected Materials upon receipt of the signed certification described in Paragraph 15. Except for Highly Sensitive Protected Materials, a Reviewing Party may make further copies of Protected Materials for use in this proceeding according to this Protective Order, but a record must be maintained as to the documents reproduced and the number of copies made, and upon request the Reviewing Party is required to provide the party asserting confidentiality with a copy of that record.
18. **Procedures Regarding Voluminous Protected Materials.** 16 Texas Administrative Code (TAC) § 22. I 44(h) will govern production of voluminous Protected Materials. Voluminous Protected Materials will be made available in the producing party's voluminous room, in Austin, Texas, or at a mutually agreed upon location, Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (except on state or Federal holidays), and at other mutually convenient times upon reasonable request.

19. **Reviewing Period Defined.** The Protected Materials may be reviewed only during the Reviewing Period, which will commence upon entry of this Protective Order and continue until the expiration of the Commission's plenary jurisdiction. The Reviewing Period will reopen if the Commission regains jurisdiction due to a remand as provided by law. Protected materials that are admitted into the evidentiary record or accompanying the evidentiary record as offers of proof may be reviewed throughout the pendency of this proceeding and any appeals.
20. **Procedures for Making Copies of Voluminous Protected Materials.** Other than Highly Sensitive Protected Materials, Reviewing Parties may take notes regarding the information contained in voluminous Protected Materials made available for inspection or they may make photographic, mechanical or electronic copies of the Protected Materials, subject to the conditions in this Protective Order; provided, however, that before photographic, mechanical or electronic copies may be made, the Reviewing Party seeking photographic, mechanical or electronic copies must provide written confirmation of the receipt of copies listed on Attachment B of this Protective Order identifying each piece of Protected Materials or portions thereof the Reviewing Party will need.
21. **Protected Materials to be Used Solely for the Purposes of These Proceedings.** All Protected Materials must be made available to the Reviewing Parties and their Reviewing Representatives solely for the purposes of these proceedings. Access to the Protected Materials may not be used in the furtherance of any other purpose, including, without limitation: (a) any other pending or potential proceeding involving any claim, complaint, or other grievance of whatever nature, except appellate review proceedings that may arise from or be subject to these proceedings; or (b) any business or competitive endeavor of

whatever nature. Because of their statutory regulatory obligations, these restrictions do not apply to Commission Staff or OPC.

22. **Procedures for Confidential Treatment of Protected Materials and Information Derived from Those Materials.** Protected Materials, as well as a Reviewing Party's notes, memoranda, or other information regarding or derived from the Protected Materials are to be treated confidentially by the Reviewing Party and must not be disclosed or used by the Reviewing Party except as permitted and provided in this Protective Order. Information derived from or describing the Protected Materials must be maintained in a secure place and must not be placed in the public or general files of the Reviewing Party except in accordance with the provisions of this Protective Order. A Reviewing Party must take all reasonable precautions to ensure that the Protected Materials including notes and analyses made from Protected Materials that disclose Protected Materials are not viewed or taken by any person other than a Reviewing Representative of a Reviewing Party.
23. **Procedures for Submission of Protected Materials.** If a Reviewing Party tenders for filing any Protected Materials, including Highly Sensitive Protected Materials, or any written testimony, exhibit, brief, motion or other type of pleading or other submission at the Commission or before any other judicial body that quotes from Protected Materials or discloses the content of Protected Materials, the confidential portion of such submission must be filed and served in sealed envelopes or other appropriate containers endorsed to the effect that they contain Protected Material or Highly Sensitive Protected Material and are sealed pursuant to this Protective Order. If filed at the Commission, such documents must be marked "PROTECTED MATERIAL" and must be filed under seal with the presiding officer and served under seal to the counsel of record for the Reviewing Parties.

The presiding officer may subsequently, on his/her own motion or on motion of a party, issue a ruling respecting whether or not the inclusion, incorporation or reference to Protected Materials is such that such submission should remain under seal. If filing before a judicial body, the filing party: (a) must notify the party which provided the information within sufficient time so that the producing party may seek a temporary sealing order; and (b) must otherwise follow the procedures in Rule 76a, Texas Rules of Civil Procedure.

24. **Maintenance of Protected Status of Materials during Pendency of Appeal of Order Holding Materials are not Protected Materials.** In the event that the presiding officer at any time in the course of this proceeding finds that all or part of the Protected Materials are not confidential or proprietary, by finding, for example, that such materials have entered the public domain or materials claimed to be Highly Sensitive Protected Materials are only Protected Materials, those materials will nevertheless be subject to the protection afforded by this Protective Order for three (3) full working days, unless otherwise ordered, from the date the party asserting confidentiality receives notice of the presiding officer's order. Such notification will be by written communication. This provision establishes a deadline for appeal of a presiding officer's order to the Commission. In the event an appeal to the Commissioners is filed within those three (3) working days from notice, the Protected Materials must be afforded the confidential treatment and status provided in this Protective Order during the pendency of such appeal. Neither the party asserting confidentiality nor any Reviewing Party waives its right to seek additional administrative or judicial remedies after the Commission's denial of any appeal.

25. **Notice of Intent to Use Protected Materials or Change Materials Designation.** Parties intending to use Protected Materials must notify the other parties prior to offering them into evidence or otherwise disclosing such information into the record of the proceeding. During the pendency of Docket No. 51610 at the Commission, in the event that a Reviewing Party wishes to disclose Protected Materials to any person to whom disclosure is not authorized by this Protective Order, or wishes to have changed the designation of certain information or material as Protected Materials by alleging, for example, that such information or material has entered the public domain, such Reviewing Party must first file and serve on all parties written notice of such proposed disclosure or request for change in designation, identifying with particularity each of such Protected Materials. A Reviewing Party will at any time be able to file a written motion to challenge the designation of information as Protected Materials.
26. **Procedures to Contest Disclosure or Change in Designation.** In the event that the party asserting confidentiality wishes to contest a proposed disclosure or request for change in designation, the party asserting confidentiality must file with the appropriate presiding officer its objection to a proposal, with supporting affidavits, if any, within five (5) working days after receiving such notice of proposed disclosure or change in designation. Failure of the party asserting confidentiality to file such an objection within this period will be deemed a waiver of objection to the proposed disclosure or request for change in designation. Within five (5) working days after the party asserting confidentiality files its objection and supporting materials, the party challenging confidentiality may respond. Any such response must include a statement by counsel for the party challenging such confidentiality that he or she has reviewed all portions of the materials in dispute and,

without disclosing the Protected Materials, a statement as to why the Protected Materials should not be held to be confidential under current legal standards, or that the party asserting confidentiality for some reason did not allow such counsel to review such materials. If either party wishes to submit the material in question for in camera inspection, it must do so no later than five (5) working days after the party challenging confidentiality has made its written filing.

27. **Procedures for Presiding Officer Determination Regarding Proposed Disclosure or Change in Designation.** If the party asserting confidentiality files an objection, the appropriate presiding officer will determine whether the proposed disclosure or change in designation is appropriate. Upon the request of either the producing or Reviewing Party or upon the presiding officer's own initiative, the presiding officer may conduct a prehearing conference. The burden is on the party asserting confidentiality to show that such proposed disclosure or change in designation should not be made. If the presiding officer determines that such proposed disclosure or change in designation should be made, disclosure must not take place earlier than three (3) full working days after such determination unless otherwise ordered. No party waives any right to seek additional administrative or judicial remedies concerning such presiding officer's ruling.
28. **Maintenance of Protected Status during Periods Specified for Challenging Various Orders.** Any party electing to challenge, in the courts of this state, a Commission or presiding officer determination allowing disclosure or a change in designation will have a period often (10) days from: (a) the date of an unfavorable Commission order; or (b) if the Commission does not rule on an appeal of an interim order, the date an appeal of an interim order to the Commission is overruled by operation of law, to obtain a favorable ruling in

state district court. Any party challenging a state district court determination allowing disclosure or a change in designation will have an additional period of ten (10) days from the date of the order to obtain a favorable ruling from a state appeals court. Finally, any party challenging a determination of a state appeals court allowing disclosure or a change in designation will have an additional period of ten (10) days from the date of the order to obtain a favorable ruling from the state supreme court, or other appellate court. All Protected Materials must be afforded the confidential treatment and status provided for in this Protective Order during the periods for challenging the various orders referenced in this paragraph. For purposes of this paragraph, a favorable ruling of a state district court, state appeals court, Supreme Court or other appellate court includes any order extending the deadlines in this paragraph.

29. **Other Grounds for Objection to Use of Protected Materials Remain Applicable.**

Nothing in this Protective Order precludes any party from objecting to the use of Protected Materials on grounds other than confidentiality, including the lack of required relevance. Nothing in this Protective Order constitutes a waiver of the right to argue for more disclosure, provided, however, that unless the Commission or a court orders such additional disclosure, all parties will abide by the restrictions imposed by the Protective Order.

30. **Protection of Materials from Unauthorized Disclosure.** All notices, applications, responses or other correspondence must be made in a manner which protects Protected Materials from unauthorized disclosure.

31. **Return of Copies of Protected Materials and Destruction of Information Derived from Protected Materials.** Following the conclusion of these proceedings, each Reviewing Party must, no later than thirty (30) days following receipt of the notice

described below, return to the party asserting confidentiality all copies of the Protected Materials provided by that party pursuant to this Protective Order and all copies reproduced by a Reviewing Party, and counsel for each Reviewing Party must provide to the party asserting confidentiality a letter by counsel that, to the best of his or her knowledge, information, and belief, all copies of notes, memoranda, and other documents regarding or derived from the Protected Materials (including copies of Protected Materials) that have not been so returned, if any, have been destroyed, other than notes, memoranda, or other documents which contain information in a form which, if made public, would not cause disclosure of the substance of Protected Materials. As used in this Protective Order, “conclusion of these proceedings” refers to the exhaustion of available appeals, or the running of the time for the making of such appeals, as provided by applicable law. If, following any appeal, the Commission conducts a remand proceeding, then the “conclusion of these proceedings” is extended by the remand to the exhaustion of available appeals of the remand, or the running of the time for making such appeals of the remand, as provided by applicable law. Promptly following the conclusion of these proceedings, counsel for the party asserting confidentiality will send a written notice to all other parties, reminding them of their obligations under this Paragraph. Nothing in this Paragraph prohibits counsel for each Reviewing Party from retaining two (2) copies of any filed testimony, brief, application for rehearing, hearing exhibit or other pleading which refers to Protected Materials provided that any such Protected Materials retained by counsel will remain subject to the provisions of this Protective Order.

32. **Applicability of Other Law.** This Protective Order is subject to the requirements of the Public Information Act, the Open Meetings Act, the Texas Securities Act and any other

applicable law, provided that parties subject to those acts will notify the party asserting confidentiality, if possible, under those acts, prior to disclosure pursuant to those acts. Such notice is not required where the Protected Materials are sought by governmental officials authorized to conduct a criminal or civil investigation that relates to or involves the Protected Materials, and those governmental officials aver in writing that such notice could compromise the investigation and that the governmental entity involved will maintain the confidentiality of the Protected Materials.

33. **Procedures for Release of Information under Order.** If required by order of a governmental or judicial body, the Reviewing Party may release to such body the confidential information required by such order; provided, however, that: (a) the Reviewing Party must notify the producing party of the order requiring the release of such information within five (5) calendar days of the date the Reviewing Party has notice of the order; (b) the Reviewing Party must notify the producing party at least five (5) calendar days in advance of the release of the information to allow the producing party to contest any release of the confidential information; and (c) the Reviewing Party must use its best efforts to prevent such materials from being disclosed to the public. The terms of this Protective Order do not preclude the Reviewing Party from complying with any valid and enforceable order of a state or federal court with competent jurisdiction specifically requiring disclosure of Protected Materials earlier than contemplated herein. The notice specified in this section is not required where the Protected Materials are sought by governmental officials authorized to conduct a criminal or civil investigation that relates to or involves the Protected Materials, and those governmental officials aver in writing that

such notice could compromise the investigation and that the governmental entity involved will maintain the confidentiality of the Protected Materials.

34. **Best Efforts Defined.** The term ‘best efforts’ as used in the preceding paragraph requires that the Reviewing Party attempt to ensure that disclosure is not made unless such disclosure is pursuant to a final order of a Texas governmental or Texas judicial body, the written opinion of the Texas Attorney General sought in compliance with the Public Information Act, or the request of governmental officials authorized to conduct a criminal or civil investigation that relates to or involves the Protected Materials. The Reviewing Party is not required to delay compliance with a lawful order to disclose such information but is simply required to timely notify the party asserting confidentiality, or its counsel, that it has received a challenge to the confidentiality of the information and that the Reviewing Party will either proceed under the provisions of §552.301 of the Public Information Act, or intends to comply with the final governmental or court order. Provided, however, that no notice is required where the Protected Materials are sought by governmental officials authorized to conduct a criminal or civil investigation that relates to or involves the Protected Materials, and those governmental officials aver in writing that such notice could compromise the investigation and that the governmental entity involved will maintain the confidentiality of the Protected Materials.
35. **Notify Defined.** “Notify” for purposes of Paragraphs 32, 33 and 34 means written notice to the party asserting confidentiality at least five (5) calendar days prior to release; including when a Reviewing Party receives a request under the Public Information Act. However, the Commission, OAG, or OPC may provide a copy of Protected Materials to the Open Records Division of the OAG as provided herein.

36. **Requests for Non-Disclosure.** If the producing party asserts that the requested information should not be disclosed at all, or should not be disclosed to certain parties under the protection afforded by this Protective Order, the producing party must tender the information for in camera review to the presiding officer within ten (10) calendar days of the request. At the same time, the producing party is required to file and serve on all parties its argument, including any supporting affidavits, in support of its position of non-disclosure. The burden is on the producing party to establish that the material should not be disclosed. The producing party must serve a copy of the information under the classification of Highly Sensitive Protected Material to all parties requesting the information that the producing party has not alleged should be prohibited from reviewing the information.

Parties wishing to respond to the producing party's argument for non-disclosure must do so within five working days. Responding parties should explain why the information should be disclosed to them, including why disclosure is necessary for a fair adjudication of the case if the material is determined to constitute a trade secret. If the presiding officer finds that the information should be disclosed as Protected Material under the terms of this Protective Order, the presiding officer will stay the order of disclosure for such period of time as the presiding officer deems necessary to allow the producing party to appeal the ruling to the Commission.

37. **Sanctions Available for Abuse of Designation.** If the presiding officer finds that a producing party unreasonably designated material as Protected Material or as Highly Sensitive Protected Material, or unreasonably attempted to prevent disclosure pursuant to

Paragraph 36, the presiding officer may sanction the producing party pursuant to 16 TAC §22.161.

38. **Modification of Protective Order.** Each party will have the right to seek changes in this Protective Order as appropriate from the presiding officer.
39. **Breach of Protective Order.** In the event of a breach of the provisions of this Protective Order, the producing party, if it sustains its burden of proof required to establish the right to injunctive relief, will be entitled to an injunction against such breach without any requirements to post bond as a condition of such relief. The producing party will not be relieved of proof of any element required to establish the right to injunctive relief. In addition to injunctive relief, the producing party will be entitled to pursue any other form of relief to which it is entitled.

ATTACHMENT A

Protective Order Certification

I certify my understanding that the Protected Materials are provided to me pursuant to the terms and restrictions of the Protective Order in this docket and that I have received a copy of it and have read the Protective Order and agree to be bound by it. I understand that the contents of the Protected Materials, any notes, memoranda, or any other form of information regarding or derived from the Protected Materials must not be disclosed to anyone other than in accordance with the Protective Order and unless I am an employee of the Commission or OPC will be used only for the purpose of the proceeding in Docket No. 51610. I acknowledge that the obligations imposed by this certification are pursuant to such Protective Order. Provided, however, if the information contained in the Protected Materials is obtained from independent public sources, the understanding stated here will not apply.

Signature

Party Represented

Printed Name

Date

I certify that I am eligible to have access to Highly Sensitive Protected Material under the terms of the Protective Order in this docket.

Signature

Patty Represented

Printed Name

Date

ATTACHMENT B

I request to view/copy the following documents:

Document Requested	# of Copies	Non-Confidential	Protected Materials and/or Highly Sensitive Protected Materials

Signature

Party Represented

Printed Name

Date