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DOCKET NO. 51999

APPLICATION OF T&W WATER	§	PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
SERVICE COMPANY AND BELLE	§	
OAKS WATER AND SEWER CO., INC.	§	OF TEXAS
FOR SALE, TRANSFER, OR MERGER	§	
OF FACILITIES AND CERTIFICATE	§	
RIGHTS IN JEFFERSON COUNTY	§	

COMMISSION STAFF'S RECOMMENDATION ON SUFFICIENCY OF CLOSING DOCUMENTS

On April 9, 2021, T&W Water Service Company (T&W Water) and Belle Oaks Water and Sewer Co., Inc. (Belle Oaks) (collectively, Applicants) filed an application for approval of the sale, transfer, or merger of facilities and certificate rights in Jefferson County. Specifically, T&W Water seeks approval to acquire facilities and to transfer water service area held under Belle Oaks' certificate of convenience and necessity (CCN) number 13067 and to acquire facilities and to transfer sewer service area held under Belle Oaks' CCN No. 20965. Applicants also seek the amendment of T&W Water's water CCN number 12892, the cancellation of Belle Oaks' water and sewer CCN numbers, and the issuance of a new sewer CCN number to T&W Water. The requested water service area includes approximately 450 acres, and the requested sewer service area includes approximately 445 acres.

On November 19, 2021, the administrative law judge filed Order No. 9, requiring the Staff of the Public Utility Commission of Texas (Staff) to file a recommendation regarding the sufficiency of the closing documents and propose a procedural schedule within 15 days of Applicants' submission of proof that the sale had been consummated and customer deposits had been addressed. Applicants filed closing documents on May 17, 2022. Therefore, this pleading is timely filed. Therefore, this pleading is timely filed.

I. SUFFICIENCY OF CLOSING DOCUMENTS

Staff has reviewed the closing documents filed by Applicants on May 17, 2022. Based on its review, Staff has determined that Applicants' filings meet the requirements of 16 Texas Administrative Code (TAC) § 24.239(a), which requires the filing of an STM application and the provision of public notice at least 120 days before the effective date of a proposed transaction.

Under 16 TAC § 24.239(i), the proposed transaction may be completed at the end of the 120-day period or at any time after the transferee receives notice that a hearing will not be required.

On May 17, 2022, Applicants submitted the affidavits of Ron Payne and Bryan Phelps, which stated that the transaction described in the application was completed on May 2, 2022. Staff recommends a finding that Applicants' closing documents are sufficient and satisfy 16 TAC § 24.239(a) and (i).

As noted in the application, there are no customers with deposits being transferred. Staff therefore recommends a finding that customer deposits have been adequately addressed as required by 16 TAC § 24.239(k) and (*l*).

II. PROCEDURAL SCHEDULE

In accordance with Staff's recommendation that Applicants' closing documents be found sufficient, Staff proposes the following procedural schedule:

Events	Date
Deadline for Commission Staff to provide final maps, certificates, and tariffs (if applicable), to applicants for review and consent	July 6, 2022
Deadline for applicants to file signed consent forms with the Commission	July 20, 2022
Deadline for parties to jointly file Proposed Notice of Approval, including findings of fact, conclusions of law, and ordering paragraphs	July 27, 2022

III. CONCLUSION

For the reasons detailed above, Staff respectfully requests that an order be issued finding the closing documents filed by Applicants sufficient. Staff further requests that the procedural schedule above be adopted for continued processing of this docket.

Dated: June 1, 2022

Respectfully submitted,

PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF TEXAS LEGAL DIVISION

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that, unless otherwise ordered by the presiding officer, notice of the filing of this document was provided to all parties of record on June 1, 2022, in accordance with the Order Suspending Rules, issued in Project No. 50664.

/s/ Merritt Lander
Merritt Lander