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DOCKET NO. 53219

PETITION TO REVOKE M.A.B.B.D.	§	PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
INC'S CERTIFCATE OF	§	
CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY	§	OF TEXAS
UNDER TEX. WATER CODE §13.254	§	
AND 16 TAC §24.245	§	

ORDER NO. 6 DENYING MOTION FOR DEFAULT AND REQURING CLARIFICATION

On February 14, 2022, Commission Staff filed a petition in which it seeks to revoke M.A.B.B.D. Inc.'s water certificate of convenience and necessity number 12009. Commission Staff alleges that M.A.B.B.D. is no longer providing continuous and adequate water service to the certificated area and the facilities necessary to provide continuous and adequate water service to the certificated area are inactive.

On May 20, 2022, Commission Staff filed a motion for entry of a default order. The motion included the affidavit of Rose Puente, legal assistant in the Commission's Division of Compliance and Enforcement, dated May 20, 2022, attesting that a copy of Commission Staff's petition to revoke M.A.B.B.D.'s CCN and notice of opportunity for a hearing and a copy of Commission Staff's motion for entry for a default order were sent by certified mail to M.A.B.B.D.'s addresses "found after a reasonable investigation". Commission Staff's motion also included a copy of a page from the United States Postal Service (USPS) firm mailing book for accountable mail, and a proposed default order.

In the petition, Commission Staff states that the petition was sent by certified mail, return receipt requested, to M.A.B.B.D.'s "addresses found after a reasonable investigation", 2600 One American Center, 600 Congress, Austin, TX 78701 and 101 San Jacinto Blvd., Austin TX 78707-4025." The affidavit of Ms. Puente also states that a copy of the default order was sent to M.A.B.B.D.'s "addresses found after a reasonable investigation".

The Commission's default rule, 16 Texas Administrative Code (TAC) § 22.183, specifies three methods by which proof can be made that the non-moving party was provided notice of the opportunity for a hearing, two of which are relevant here. Under 16 TAC § 22.183(b)(2)(A), a default order may be issued when the moving party can prove that the required notice was sent by

certified mail to the non-movant's "last known address in the Commission's records, if the party has a . . . certificate . . . approved by the Commission." Commission Staff does not state from where it obtained M.A.B.B.D.'s last known address; however, a search of the Commission's records indicates that there is no address for M.A.B.B.D. in the Commission's records.

Under 16 TAC § 22.183(b)(2)(C), if 16 TAC § 22.183(b)(2)(A) does not apply, the required notice may be sent to "an address for the party identified after reasonable investigation." Here, Commission Staff has not explained the investigation done to identify M.A.B.B.D.'s last known address and did not provide any information such that the administrative law judge can determine whether the investigation was in fact reasonable.

Thus, because Commission Staff has not demonstrated that a reasonable investigation was done to located M.A.B.B.D.'s last known address, adequate proof of notice has not yet been shown, and Commission Staff's motion for default is denied at this time.

By June 8, 2022, Commission Staff must file a clarification indicating the steps included in its investigation so that the ALJ can determine whether Commission Staff's investigation was reasonable as contemplated by 16 TAC § 22.183(b)(2)(C).

Signed at Austin, Texas the 1st day of June 2022.

PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF TEXAS

KATIE MOORE MARX ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE

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