

Filing Receipt

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DOCKET NO. 53254

PETITION OF STC GROUP MILLER,	§	PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
LLC TO AMEND BOLIVAR WATER	§	
SUPPLY CORPORATION'S	§	OF TEXAS
CERTIFICATE OF CONVENIENCE	§	
AND NECESSITY IN DENTON	§	
COUNTY BY STREAMLINED	§	
EXPEDITED RELEASE		

COMMISSION STAFF'S RECOMMENDATION ON FINAL DISPOSITION

On February 22, 2022, STC Group Miller, LLC (STC) filed a petition for streamlined expedited release from Bolivar Water Supply Corporation's (Bolivar WSC) water Certificate of Convenience and Necessity (CCN) No. 11257 under Texas Water Code (TWC) § 13.2541 and 16 Texas Administrative Code (TAC) § 24.245(h). STC asserts that the land is at least 25 contiguous acres, is not receiving water service, and is located in Denton County, which is a qualifying county.

On May 6, 2022, the administrative law judge (ALJ) filed Order No. 3, establishing a deadline of May 20, 2022 for the Staff (Staff) of the Public Utility Commission of Texas (Commission) to file a recommendation on final disposition. Therefore, this pleading is timely filed.

I. RECOMMENDATION ON FINAL DISPOSITION

Staff has reviewed the petition, Bolivar WSC's response to the petition, and STC's reply to Bolivar WSC's response, and, as detailed in the attached memorandum from Jolie Mathis, Infrastructure Division, recommends that the petition satisfies the requirements of TWC § 13.2541 and 16 TAC § 24.245(h).

Bolivar WSC argued that it is capable of providing service to STC, through a 12-inch water distribution line that is in close proximity to the land requested for release and is supplied by an elevated water storage tank and two pump stations. STC replied and correctly argued that this does not mean that the land is *receiving* service. To receive water service, a retail water utility must have "facilities or lines committed to providing water to the particular tract or has performed acts or supplied anything to the particular tract" Bolivar WSC's argument is flawed, because the

¹ Tex. Gen. Land Office v. Crystal Clear Water Supply Corp., 449 S.W.3d.130, 140 (Tex. App.—Austin 2014, pet. denied); see also TWC § 13.002(21), 16 TAC § 24.3(33).

water line located in close proximity to the requested area has not been shown to be committed to providing water to the requested area. In *Crystal Clear*, the court looked to whether existing lines and facilities, located on or near property, were constructed for the purpose of providing water to the property in question.² Finding that the facilities were constructed to serve the greater area, and not the particular property, the court determined that the facilities were not committed to the particular tract of land, and therefore, the property in question was not receiving service.³ Bolivar WSC's limited response on this issue is conclusory and does not demonstrate that the water line is committed in any way separate from supplying water to the greater area. Further, Bolivar WSC also argued that its elevated water storage tank and two pump stations connected to the 12-inch water line shows that it has adequate capacity and pressure maintenance to serve the requested area. However, merely having the capacity to serve the requested area is not sufficient to demonstrate that the requested area is receiving water.⁴

Accordingly, Staff recommends that the petition for streamlined expedited release be approved. Further, the final water CCN map and certificate are attached to this filing. Staff recommends that the final map and certificate be provided to Bolivar WSC and for Bolivar WSC to file a certified copy of the CCN map and a boundary description of the CCN service area in the Denton County Clerk's office, as required under TWC § 13.257(r)-(s).

II. CONCLUSION

For the reasons detailed above, Staff recommends that the petition be approved and respectfully requests the entry of an order consistent with this recommendation.

² Crystal Clear, 449 S.W.3d at 140.

³ *Id*.

⁴ Petition of Imperial Heights, Ltd. to Amend Aqua Texas, Inc.'s Certificates of Convenience and Necessity in Harris County by Expedited Release, Docket No. 51114, Open Meeting Tr. at 26-28 (Nov. 5, 2020); see also November 5, 2020 Open Meeting Discussion of Item No. 6 at 17:52 – 26:44 (http://www.adminmonitor.com/tx/puct/open_meeting/20201105/, last visited September 3, 2021).

Dated: May 20, 2022

Respectfully submitted,

PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF TEXAS LEGAL DIVISION

Keith Rogas Division Director

Sneha Patel Managing Attorney

/s/ Scott Miles Scott Miles State Bar No. 24098103 1701 N. Congress Avenue P.O. Box 13326 Austin, Texas 78711-3326 (512) 936-7228 (512) 936-7268 (facsimile) Scott.Miles@puc.texas.gov

DOCKET NO. 53254

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 via electronic mail on May 20, 2022, in accordance with the Order Suspending Rules, issued in Project No. 50664.

/s/ Scott Miles
Scott Miles

Public Utility Commission of Texas

Memorandum

TO: Scott Miles, Attorney

Legal Division

FROM: Jolie Mathis, Utility Engineering Specialist

Infrastructure Division

DATE: May 20, 2022

RE: Docket No. 53254 – Petition of STC Group Miller, LLC to Amend Bolivar Water

Supply Corporation's Certificate of Convenience and Necessity in Denton County

by Streamlined Expedited Release

On February 22, 2022, STC Group Miller LLC (STC) filed a petition for streamlined expedited release from Bolivar Water Supply Corporation's (Bolivar WSC) water Certificate of Convenience and Necessity (CCN) No. 11257 in Denton County, under Texas Water Code (TWC) § 13.2541(b) and 16 Texas Administrative Code (TAC) § 24.245(h). STC asserts that the land is at least 25 contiguous acres, is not receiving water service, and is located in Denton County, which is a qualifying county.

STC provided a warranty deed confirming ownership of the tract of land within Bolivar WSC's certificated service area. In addition, STC submitted a sworn affidavit attesting that the tract of land was not receiving water service from the CCN holder. Bolivar WSC did not request to intervene, however did file a response to the petition on April 14, 2022.

Based on the mapping review by Dave Babicki, Infrastructure Division, it was determined the landowner's total property is approximately 202.7 acres. The tract of land in the petition for streamlined expedited release is approximately 202.7 acres, of which approximately 202.7 acres overlap Bolivar WSC (CCN No. 11257) and would be decertified from CCN No. 11257.

In accordance with TWC § 13.2541 and 16 TAC § 24.245(h), STC has met the Commission's requirements to allow for the release of the tract of land from Bolivar WSC's CCN No. 11257. Therefore, I recommend approval of the petition. Enclosed is a final map and certificate for Commission approval.

Additionally, I recommend that a final map and certificate be provided to the CCN holder.



Public Utility Commission of Texas

By These Presents Be It Known To All That

Bolivar Water Supply Corporation

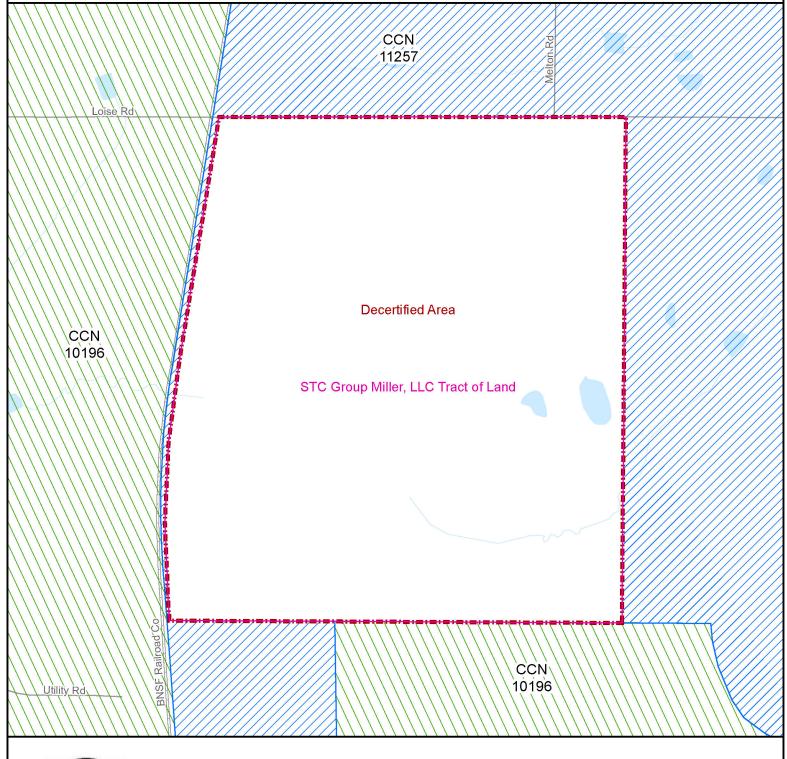
having obtained certification to provide water utility service for the convenience and necessity of the public, and it having been determined by this Commission that the public convenience and necessity would in fact be advanced by the provision of such service, Bolivar Water Supply Corporation is entitled to this

Certificate of Convenience and Necessity No. 11257

to provide continuous and adequate water utility service to that service area or those service areas in Cooke, Denton, and Wise Counties as by final Order or Orders duly entered by this Commission, which Order or Orders resulting from Docket No. 53254 are on file at the Commission offices in Austin, Texas; and are matters of official record available for public inspection; and be it known further that these presents do evidence the authority and the duty of the Bolivar Water Supply Corporation to provide such utility service in accordance with the laws of this State and Rules of this Commission, subject only to any power and responsibility of this Commission to revoke or amend this Certificate in whole or in part upon a subsequent showing that the public convenience and necessity would be better served thereby.

Bolivar Water Supply Corporation Portion of Water CCN No. 11257 PUC Docket No. 53254 Petition by STC Group Miller, LLC to Amend

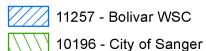
Bolivar Water Supply Corporation's CCN by Streamlined Expedited Release in Denton County



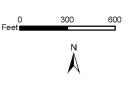


Public Utility Commission of Texas 1701 N. Congress Ave Austin, TX 78701

Water CCN







Map by: Komal Patel Date: May 16, 2022 Project: 53254Bolivar WSC.mxd