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Received - 2023-02-17 04:21:45 PM
Control Number - 53442
ItemNumber - 353

Peter M. Lake
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Kathleen Jackson
Commissioner



Greg Abbott
Governor

Thomas J. Gleeson
Executive Director

Public Utility Commission of Texas

TO: Central Records

FROM: Office of Policy and Docket Management

DATE: February 17, 2023

RE: Correspondence related to PUC Docket No. 53442, SOAH Docket No. 473-22-2353, *Application of CenterPoint Energy Houston Electric, LLC for Approval to Amend Its Distribution Cost Recovery Fact.*

Chairman Lake, Commissioner McAdams, Commissioner Cobos, Commissioner Glotfelty, and Commissioner Jackson received the attached correspondence pertaining to the above-styled docket.

Please note that a member or employee of a state agency assigned to render a decision in a contested case may not directly or indirectly communicate in connection with an issue of fact or law with any state agency, person, party, or representative of those entities, except on notice and opportunity for each party to participate. See Administrative Procedures Act, Texas Government Code § 2001.061.

Commission Advising is filing the correspondence. Parties will not be served copies of the attached document but can access it through the PUC Interchange at <http://interchange.puc.texas.gov/>.

cc: All Parties

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**Waller County Fire Marshal's Office
Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management**

February 9, 2023

Chairman Peter Lake
Commissioner Will McAdams
Commissioner Lori Cobos
Commissioner Jimmy Glotfelty
Commissioner Kathleen Jackson
Public Utility Commission of Texas
1701 N. Congress Avenue
Austin, TX 78701

Re: SOAH Docket No. 473-22-2353; PUC Docket No. 53442; *Application of CenterPoint Energy Houston Electric, LLC for Approval to Amend its Distribution Cost Recovery Factor*

Honorable Commissioners:

As an emergency responder, The Waller County Office of Emergency Management is committed to acting quickly to prevent and respond to emergencies and their negative consequences. Internally, we depend on our dedicated employees who answer the call when community members need our help. The Waller County Office of Emergency Management also relies on external partners including police or fire departments and our local utility providers such as CenterPoint Energy who helps us navigate emergencies that involve utility service, including situations in which there are power outages.

It is critical to The Waller County Office of Emergency Management to have access to all the resources we need to fulfill our mission, and we rely on our external partners to have necessary resources so they can help us to the fullest extent possible. For CenterPoint Energy, that means having access to the equipment that allows the company to provide electric service prior to and during emergencies that affect residents and businesses in and around Houston, Texas. In late 2021, CenterPoint Energy let us know it was leasing mobile generation units that would allow it to position equipment throughout the Houston area to be ready to respond when power outages affect many customers and create public safety concerns. The Waller County Office of Emergency Management was very happy to hear that our local electric utility was able to add new equipment to its existing facilities that will allow it to be even more responsive to our calls for assistance.

We now understand that CenterPoint Energy may not be able to recover the costs it spent on that equipment if the Public Utility Commission of Texas approves a recommendation made by an administrative judge in Austin, Texas. The Waller County Office of Emergency Management truly hopes the PUCT will approve CenterPoint Energy's request to recover costs for the equipment we know will be used the next time the Houston area experiences severe weather like it did during Winter Storm Uri, following recent destruction from tornadoes in January 2023, or the next time a hurricane makes landfall in our area.

The day-to-day work of The Waller County Office of Emergency Management is focused on helping people in our community. It is a great day when we can do just that. It is an awful day when we are hindered in our ability to fulfill our mission, especially when that is due to circumstances beyond our control. At a time like this, it is imperative that our partners like CenterPoint Energy are able to obtain all of the resources available to them to serve the people of Waller County, including the mobile generation units the company obtained in late 2021.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B Cantrell", written over a circular scribble.

Brian Cantrell
Chief

Waller County Emergency Management
836 Austin Street, Suite 103
Hempstead, Texas 77445