



Control Number: 54121



Item Number: 38


# *Public Utility Commission of Texas*

## **Commissioner Memorandum**

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**TO:** Commissioner Peter M. Lake  
Commissioner Will McAdams  
Commissioner Lori Cobos  
Commissioner Jimmy Glotfelty

**FROM:** Interim Chair Kathleen Jackson

**DATE:** June 14, 2023 

**RE:** June 15, 2023 Open Meeting – Item No. 9

*Docket No. 54121 – Application of Harrison Williams for Temporary Rates for a Nonfunctioning Utility*

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Before the Commission is a revised proposed order that would approve the application for temporary rates for Norman Barnett dba Villa Utilities. The application was filed by Harrison Williams, the temporary manager for the utility. If the Commission approves the revised proposed order, I recommend a change to the order, as discussed below.

The Commission has historically made it a policy to encourage and facilitate repairs and capital improvements to nonfunctioning systems for several reasons: to bring the utility into compliance with Commission rules; make much-needed repairs and improvements; and to get the utility in a position to sell to a new owner, if appropriate. Here, Mr. Williams has applied for temporary rates for customers of the nonfunctioning utility to bring it into compliance. Mr. Williams provided documentation in support of the proposed temporary rates, which Commission Staff have reviewed and considered. Commission Staff proposed similar rates in the revised proposed tariff, to which Mr. Williams has agreed to.

Given the supporting documentation in the record and the Commission's desire to bring the nonfunctioning utility into compliance, I would find that the record supports that the temporary rates in the revised proposed tariff are reasonable. I recommend that the Commission add the following ordering paragraph to support this determination and promote consistency with previous Commission orders regarding temporary rates.

##. The reconciliation of the temporary rates will begin following the filing of the final report, upon the request of Commission Staff, or as directed by the Commission.

Finally, the Commission should delegate to the Office of Policy and Docket Management staff the authority to modify the order to conform to the *Citation and Style Guide for the Public Utility Commission of Texas* and to make other non-substantive changes to the order for such

matters as capitalization, spelling, grammar, punctuation, style, correction of numbering, and readability.

I look forward to discussing this with you at the open meeting.