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WESTERN TEXAS, LLC APPEAL OF	§	PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
THE COST OF OBTAINING SERVICE	§	
FROM SOUTH ELLIS COUNTY WATER	§	OF TEXAS
SUPPLY CORPORATION	§	

**COMMISSION STAFF'S REQUEST FOR HEARING AND REFERRAL TO THE
STATE OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS**

On October 21, 2022, Western Texas, LLC (Western Texas) filed with the Public Utility Commission of Texas (commission) an appeal of the cost of obtaining service from South Ellis County Water Supply Corporation (South Ellis WSC) under Texas Water Code (TWC) § 13.043(g) and 16 Texas Administrative Code § 24.101(g).

On February 6, 2023, the administrative law judge filed Order No. 4, requiring the Staff (Staff) of the Public Utility Commission of Texas (Commission) to file a final recommendation on the petition or to request a final hearing by March 22, 2023. Therefore, this pleading is timely filed.

I. REQUEST FOR REFFERAL

Based upon the filings of both parties, there are unresolved questions of fact regarding the cost estimate given to the Appellant and an evidentiary record needs to be developed. Accordingly, Staff respectfully requests that this case be referred to the State Office of Administrative Hearings (SOAH) for a hearing on the merits.

II. CONCLUSION

For the reasons detailed above, Staff respectfully recommends that an order be issued referring the case to SOAH for a hearing on the merits.

Date: March 22, 2023

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 via electronic mail on March 22, 2023, in accordance with the Order Suspending Rules, issued in Project No. 50664.

/s/ Bradley Reynolds
Bradley Reynolds