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APPLICATION OF CSWR-TEXAS	§	PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
UTILITY OPERATING COMPANY,	§	
LLC FOR AUTHORITY TO CHANGE	§	OF TEXAS
RATES	§	

COMMISSION STAFF'S REQUEST FOR REFERRAL

I. INTRODUCTION

On February 3, 2023, CSWR-Texas Utility Operating Company, LLC (CSWR-Texas) filed an application for authority to change water and sewer rates under Texas Water Code (TWC) § 13.1871. CSWR-Texas holds Certificates of Convenience and Necessity Nos. 13290 and 21120.

On March 30, 2023, the administrative law judge filed Order No. 2, directing the Staff (Staff) of the Public Utility Commission of Texas (Commission) to request a hearing or file a recommendation on final disposition by June 15, 2023. Therefore, this pleading is timely filed.

II. REQUEST FOR REFERRAL

Pursuant to TWC § 13.1871(i) and 16 Texas Administrative Code (TAC) § 24.35(c)(2), the Commission must set an application filed under TWC § 13.1871 for hearing if it receives protests from the lesser of 1,000 or ten percent of the affected ratepayers during the first 90 days after the effective date of the rate change. To date, approximately 2,000 protests have been filed in this proceeding. After reviewing the protests and accounting for duplicates, Staff has determined that a sufficient number of ratepayers that are subject to the Commission's original jurisdiction and are affected by the proposed rate increase have timely filed protests. Therefore, Staff requests that the Commission refer this matter to SOAH for an evidentiary hearing pursuant to 16 TAC § 24.35(c)(2).

III. CONCLUSION

For the reasons discussed above, Staff recommends that this proceeding be referred to SOAH for a hearing on the merits.

Date: April 3, 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 April 3, 2023 in accordance with the Second Order Suspending Rules, filed in Project No. 50664.

/s/ Ian Groetsch
Ian Groetsch