



Filing Receipt

Filing Date - 2023-06-29 11:59:00 AM

Control Number - 54646

Item Number - 12

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Commissioner



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Governor

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Executive Director

Public Utility Commission of Texas

TO: Stephen Journeay
Commission Counsel

All Parties of Record

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "HB", is written over the typed name of Hunter Burkhalter.

FROM: Hunter Burkhalter
Chief Administrative Law Judge

RE: **Docket No. 54646** – *Petition of DEBLOCK, Ltd. to Amend Aqua Texas, Inc.'s Certificate of Convenience and Necessity in Denton County by Streamlined Expedited Release*

DATE: June 29, 2023

Enclosed is the Proposed Order in the above-referenced case. By copy of this memo, the parties to this proceeding are being served with the Proposed Order.

Please place this docket on an open meeting agenda for the Commissioners' consideration. Please notify me and the parties of the open meeting date. The parties must file corrections or exceptions to the Proposed Order by July 13, 2023.

If a party proposes a correction or exception, the party must fully explain the correction or exception and must provide a citation to the record to support the correction or exception.

If there are no corrections or exceptions, no response is necessary.

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DOCKET NO. 54646

PETITION OF DEBLOCK, LTD. TO	§	PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
AMEND AQUA TEXAS, INC.'S	§	
CERTIFICATE OF CONVENIENCE	§	OF TEXAS
AND NECESSITY IN DENTON COUNTY	§	
BY STREAMLINED EXPEDITED	§	
RELEASE	§	

**PROPOSED ORDER
GRANTING STREAMLINED EXPEDITED RELEASE**

This Order addresses the petition of DEBLOCK, Ltd. for streamlined expedited release of a tract of land in Denton County from Aqua Texas, Inc.'s service area under certificate of convenience and necessity (CCN) number 13201. For the reasons stated in this Order, the Commission releases the tract of land from Aqua Texas' certificated service area. In addition, the Commission amends Aqua Texas' CCN number 13201 to reflect removal of the tract of land from the service area.

Following entry of this Order, the Commission will determine the amount of compensation, if any, to be awarded to Aqua Texas, which will be addressed by separate order.

1. Findings of Fact

The Commission makes the following findings of fact.

Petitioner

1. DEBLOCK is a Texas limited partnership registered with the Texas secretary of state under filing number 800351188.

CCN Holder

2. Aqua Texas is a Texas corporation registered with the Texas secretary of state under filing number 800304878.
3. Aqua Texas holds CCN number 13201 that obligates it to provide retail water service in its certificated service area in Denton County.

Petition

4. On February 13, 2023, the petitioner filed a petition for streamlined expedited release of a tract of land from the CCN holder's service area under CCN number 13201.

5. The petition included an affidavit, dated February 9, 2023, of Morreta Ann Weatherford, an officer of the petitioner; maps; a special warranty deed dated November 10, 2014; and digital mapping data.
6. On March 31, 2023, the petitioner supplemented the petition with updated maps and digital mapping data.
7. In Order No. 3 filed on May 16, 2023, the administrative law judge (ALJ) found the petition, as supplemented, administratively complete.

Notice

8. On February 13, 2023, the petitioner sent a copy of the petition to the CCN holder by certified mail, return receipt requested.
9. In Order No. 3 filed on May 16, 2023, the ALJ found the notice sufficient.

Intervention and Response to Petition

10. On June 5, 2023, the CCN holder filed a motion to intervene and response to the petition which included an affidavit, dated June 1, 2023, of Darryl Waldock, the CCN holder's North Texas Area manager; and a map.
11. In Order No. 4 filed on June 12, 2023, the ALJ granted the motion to intervene.

The Tract of Land

12. The petitioner owns property in Denton County that is approximately 63 acres.
13. The tract of land for which the petitioner seeks streamlined expedited release is a portion of the petitioner's property this is approximately 59.2 acres.
14. The tract of land is located within the CCN holder's certificated service area.

Ownership of the Tract of Land

15. The petitioner acquired the property by a special warranty deed dated November 10, 2014.

Qualifying County

16. Denton County is adjacent to Dallas and Tarrant counties and has a population of more than 47,500.
17. Dallas County and Tarrant County each has a population of at least one million.

Water Service to the Tract of Land

18. The tract of land is not receiving actual water service from the CCN holder or any other water service provider.
19. The petitioner has not requested water service from the CCN holder for the tract of land or paid any fees or charges to initiate or maintain such service.
20. There are no billing records or other documents evidencing an existing account with the CCN holder for the provision of water service to the tract of land.
21. The CCN holder has a water plant located outside of the southern boundary of the tract of land, and a 4-inch water line running near, but outside of, the western boundary of the tract of land. These facilities do not provide water service to the tract of land.
22. The CCN holder has not committed or dedicated any facilities or lines to the tract of land for water service.
23. The CCN holder has no facilities or lines that provide water service to the tract of land.
24. The CCN holder has not performed any acts for or supplied anything to the tract of land.

Map and Certificate

25. On June 26, 2023, Commission Staff filed its recommendation on final disposition that included a certificate and a map on which it identified the tract of land in relation to the CCN holder's certificated service area.

II. Conclusions of Law

The Commission makes the following conclusions of law.

1. The Commission has authority over the petition for streamlined expedited release under Texas Water Code (TWC) §§ 13.254 and 13.2541.
2. The petitioner provided notice of the petition in compliance with 16 Texas Administrative Code (TAC) § 24.245(h)(3)(F).
3. No opportunity for a hearing on a petition for streamlined expedited release is provided under TWC §§ 13.254 or 13.2541 and, under 16 TAC § 24.245(h)(7); therefore, no hearing will be held on the petitioner's petition.

4. The petitioner's petition for streamlined expedited release filed under TWC §§ 13.254 and 13.2541 and 16 TAC § 24.245(h) is not a contested case.
5. Landowners seeking streamlined expedited release under TWC §§ 13.254 and 13.2541 and 16 TAC § 24.245(h) are required to submit a verified petition through a notarized affidavit, and the CCN holder may submit a response to the petition that must be verified by a notarized affidavit.
6. Under 16 TAC § 24.245(h)(7), the Commission's decision is based on the information submitted by the landowner, the CCN holder, and Commission Staff.
7. To obtain release under TWC § 13.2541(b), a landowner must demonstrate that the landowner owns a tract of land that is at least 25 acres, that the tract of land is located in a qualifying county, and that the tract of land is not receiving service of the type that the current CCN holder is authorized to provide under the applicable CCN.
8. The time that the petition is filed is the only relevant time period to consider when evaluating whether a tract of land is receiving water service under TWC § 13.2541(b). Whether a tract of land might have previously received water service is irrelevant.
9. The petitioner is not required to seek the streamlined expedited release of all of its property.
10. The petitioner owns the tract of land that is at least 25 acres for which it seeks streamlined expedited release.
11. Denton County is a qualifying county under TWC § 13.2541(b) and 16 TAC § 24.245(h)(2).
12. The tract of land is not receiving water service under TWC §§ 13.002(21) and 13.2541(b) and 16 TAC § 24.245(h), as interpreted in *Texas General Land Office v. Crystal Clear Water Supply Corporation*, 449 S.W.3d 130 (Tex. App.—Austin 2014, pet. denied).
13. The petitioner is entitled under TWC § 13.2541(b) to the release of the tract of land from the CCN holder's certificated service area.
14. Under TWC §§ 13.254(h) and 13.2541(a), after the date of this Order, the CCN holder has no obligation to provide retail water service to the tract of land.
15. The Commission may release only the property of the landowner from a CCN under TWC § 13.2541(b). The Commission has no authority to decerticate any facilities or equipment

owned and operated by the CCN holder to provide retail water service through the streamlined-expedited-release process under TWC § 13.2541(b).

16. The Commission processed the petition in accordance with the TWC and Commission rules.
17. Under TWC § 13.257(r) and (s), the CCN holder is required to record certified copies of the approved certificate and map, along with a boundary description of the service area, in the real property records of Denton County no later than the 31st day after the date the CCN holder receives this Order.
18. A retail public utility may not, under TWC §§ 13.254(d), provide retail water service to the public within the tract of land unless just and adequate compensation under TWC § 13.254(g) has been paid to the CCN holder.

III. Ordering Paragraphs

In accordance with these findings of fact and conclusions of law, the Commission issues the following orders.

1. The Commission releases the tract of land identified in the petition from the CCN holder's certificated service area under CCN number 13201.
2. The Commission does not decertify any of the CCN holder's equipment or facilities that may lay on or under the released portion of the tract of land.
3. The Commission amends CCN number 13201 in accordance with this Order.
4. The Commission approves the map attached to this Order.
5. The Commission issues the certificate attached to this Order.
6. The CCN holder must file in this docket proof of the recording required in TWC § 13.257(r) and (s) within 45 days of the date of this Order.
7. The proceeding to determine the amount of compensation to be awarded to the CCN holder, if any, commences on the date of this Order in accordance with the schedule adopted in Order No. 3. Any decision on compensation will be made by a separate order.
8. The Commission denies all other motions and any other requests for general or specific relief not expressly granted by this Order.

Signed at Austin, Texas the ____ day of ____ 2023.

PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF TEXAS

KATHLEEN JACKSON, INTERIM CHAIR

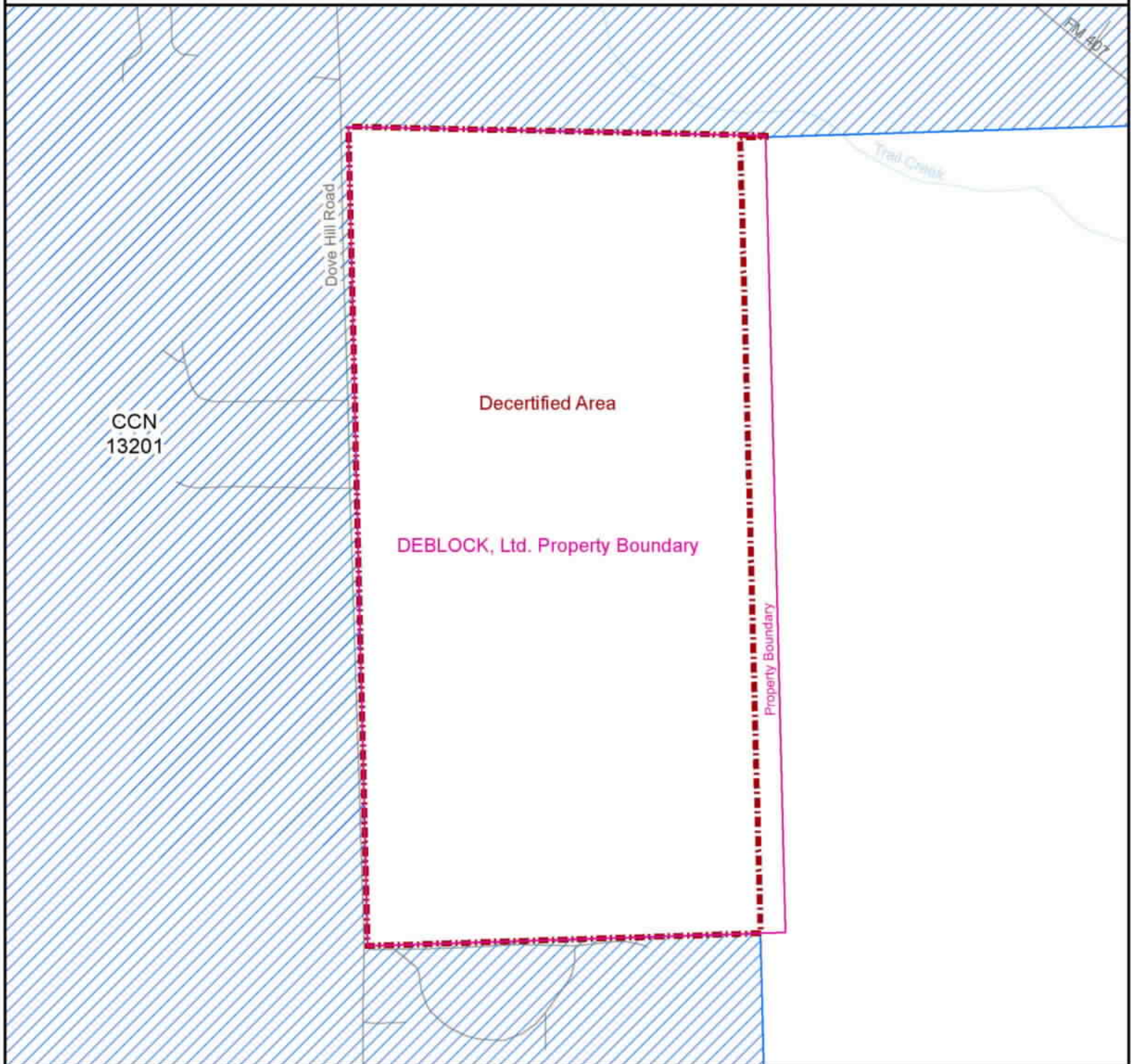
WILL MCADAMS, COMMISSIONER

LORI COBOS, COMMISSIONER

JIMMY GLOTFELTY, COMMISSIONER

PETER M. LAKE, COMMISSIONER

Aqua Texas, Inc.
Portion of Water CCN No. 13201
PUC Docket No. 54646
Petition by DEBLOCK, Ltd. to Amend
Aqua Texas, Inc.'s CCN by Streamlined Expedited Release in Denton County



Water CCN



13201 - Aqua Texas Inc



Decertified Area



Tract of Land

0 200 400
Feet





Public Utility Commission of Texas

By These Presents Be It Known To All That

Aqua Texas, Inc.

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, Aqua Texas, Inc. is entitled to this

Certificate of Convenience and Necessity No. 13201

to provide continuous and adequate water utility service to that service area or those service areas in Anderson, Bosque, Camp, Cherokee, Collin, Cooke, Denton, Erath, Grayson, Gregg, Henderson, Hood, Hunt, Johnson, Kaufman, McLennan, Marion, Parker, Smith, Somervell, Tarrant, Wise, and Wood counties as by final Order or Orders duly entered by this Commission, which Order or Orders resulting from Docket No. 54646 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 Aqua Texas, Inc. 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.