



Filing Receipt

Filing Date - 2024-07-03 12:31:24 PM

Control Number - 56211

Item Number - 410

**SOAH DOCKET NO. 473-24-13232
PUC DOCKET NO. 56211**

APPLICATION OF CENTERPOINT ENERGY HOUSTON ELECTRIC, LLC FOR AUTHORITY TO CHANGE RATES	§ § §	BEFORE THE STATE OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS
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**CENTERPOINT ENERGY HOUSTON ELECTRIC, LLC'S
FIRST REQUEST FOR INFORMATION TO THE
STAFF OF THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF TEXAS**

Pursuant to 16 Texas Administrative Code § 22.144 and SOAH Order No. 2, CenterPoint Energy Houston Electric, LLC ("CenterPoint Houston" or "the Company") requests that the Staff of the Public Utility Commission of Texas ("Commission Staff") by and through its representatives of record, provide, within eight business days, the information requested in the attached Exhibit A.

Respectfully submitted,

By: 

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**COUNSEL FOR CENTERPOINT ENERGY
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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on July 3, 2024, notice of the filing of this document was provided to all parties of record via electronic mail in accordance with the Second Order Suspending Rules, issued in Project No. 50664.



Andrea Stover

EXHIBIT A

I. DEFINITION OF TERMS

The singular herein includes the plural and vice versa; the words “and” and “or” shall be construed as “and/or” in order to bring all information within the scope of the Request. The words, “each,” “all,” and “any,” mean “any and all” or “each and every.”

“Commission Staff” means Staff of the Public Utility Commission of Texas.

“CenterPoint Houston” or “Company” means CenterPoint Energy Houston Electric, LLC.

“Communication” shall include all meetings, telephone calls, conversations, discussions, letters, memoranda, notes, and other forms of communication.

“Document” or “Documents” is used in the broadest sense possible and shall mean every writing or record of every type and description, such as drafts, corrections, memoranda, letters, tapes, stenographic or handwritten notes, studies, publications, work papers, books, pamphlets, diaries, desk calendars, interoffice communications, records, reports, analyses, bills, receipts, checks, check stubs, checkbooks, invoices, requisitions, papers and forms filed with a court or governmental body, notes, transportation and expense logs, work papers, contracts, statistical and financial statements, corporate records of any kind, charts, graphs, pictures, photographs, photocopies, films, voice recordings, and any other written, recorded or graphic material, however denominated, by whomever prepared, and to whomever addressed, which are in your possession, custody or control. The term “document” also includes all electronic and magnetic data, including e-mail. The term “document” includes all copies of every such writing or record that are not identical copies of the original or that contain any commentary, notes, or markings that do not appear on the original.

“Including” means “including but not limited to” and “including without limitation.”

“Identify” means to state as much information as you now have or that is now subject to your control, or that you may hereafter come to have or that hereafter becomes subject to your control, including the following:

- a. when used in reference to a natural person, state the person’s full name, title, present (or last known) address, telephone number, occupation, present business affiliation or employer, business address, and exact duties and responsibilities of such individual;
- b. when used in reference to an entity, state the full name of the company, organization, association, partnership, or other business enterprise; and
- c. when used in reference to a document, state the date and title of the document and, if already produced in this case, the Bates-number of such document.

“Relate” or “relating to” includes referring to, mentioning, reflecting, containing, pertaining to, evidencing, involving, describing, discussing, responding to, supporting, opposing, constituting or being a draft, copy or summary of, in whole or in part.

“You” and “Your” refers to the Staff of the Public Utility Commission of Texas and any of the attorneys or law firms that purport to represent you in this case.

II. INSTRUCTIONS

1. Each request herein extends to any documents or information in your possession and the possession of any of the attorneys or law firms that purport to represent you in this case.
2. Each and every non-identical copy of a document, whether different from the original because of indications of the recipient(s), handwritten notes, marks, attachments, marginalia, or any other reason, is a separate document that must be produced.
3. If you object to any portion of a request on the ground of privilege, answer the nonprivileged portion of the request by providing such non-privileged information as is responsive.
4. If you object to any portion of a request on any ground other than privilege, you should still provide documents responsive to the remaining non-objectionable portion.
5. Separately for each request to which you object in whole or in part, describe in detail and itemize each basis of your objection.
6. If the basis of an objection to any request, or any portion thereof, is a statute, contract or other agreement, or any other obstacle to production that you claim is based in the law, please identify the basis of that purported obstacle with specificity.
7. Each request herein shall be construed independently, and no request shall be viewed as limiting the scope of any other request. Please indicate where any portion of your document production in response to a request has been covered in your production in response to another request, and please specify the request numbers at issue.
8. If you claim that any document responsive to any request is lost or destroyed, (a) identify and describe such document, (b) describe how the document was lost or destroyed, and (c) identify when the document was lost or destroyed.
9. If you claim that any documents responsive to any request are already in the possession of CenterPoint Houston, please identify the document with sufficient specificity to allow CenterPoint Houston to locate the document.
10. The requests shall be deemed continuing so as to require additional answers if, after answering such requests, you obtain information upon the basis of which you determine that the answer was incorrect when made, or you become aware that the answer, though correct when made, is no longer true, and the circumstances are such that failure to amend the answer is in substance a knowing concealment.
11. Any document that is withheld from production pursuant to a claim of attorney/client, work product, party communication or investigative privilege shall be identified and shall be segregated and maintained for in camera submission, and a list identifying such withheld documents shall be furnished at the time and place of production. Such list shall state with respect to each document: (a) the privilege under which the document is being withheld;

(b) a description of the type of document; (c) a description of the subject matter and purpose of the document; (d) the date the document was prepared; (e) the author and/or signatory of the document; (f) the identity of the persons to whom the document was sent; and (g) the present custodian of the document.

12. As part of the response to each request for information, please state, at the bottom of the answer, the name and job position of each person who participated in any way, other than providing clerical assistance, in the preparation of the response. Please also state the name of the witness in this docket who will sponsor the answer to the request and may verify the truth of the response.

III. REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

With regard to the Direct Testimony of Ms. Vonetta Jackson filed in Docket No. 56211:

- 1-1 Does Ms. Jackson agree that under the Office of Attorney General's July 17, 2023 memorandum referenced in her testimony, the hourly rates for attorneys at \$525 per hour could be exceeded with express approval by the First Assistant Attorney General? To the extent Ms. Jackson disagrees in whole or in part, provide all support for her position.
- 1-2 Does Ms. Jackson agree that law firm hourly rates typically escalate over time? To the extent Ms. Jackson disagrees in whole or in part, provide all support for her position.
- 1-3 Did Ms. Jackson perform a study of the hourly rates charged by attorneys representing utilities in base-rate cases before the Commission or other utility regulatory authorities? If not, please explain why no such study was performed.
- 1-4 Is it Ms. Jackson's position that any hourly rate charged by any attorney representing CenterPoint Houston in this case is extreme or excessive? If so, please:
 - a. identify the attorney and hourly rate, and
 - b. explain, with specificity, each basis for the position that the hourly rate is extreme or excessive.
- 1-5 In the past five years, has the Commission hired an attorney, consultant, or service provider on an hourly basis? If so, please:
 - a. identify any such instance in which the Commission agreed to an hourly rate in excess of \$550/hour for the retained attorney, consultant, or service provider; and
 - b. provide the details of such engagements, including the engagement letter, the hourly rates by timekeeper, a description of the service provided, and the total amount paid to the attorney, consultant, or service provider.
- 1-6 Before filing her testimony, did Ms. Jackson investigate the circumstances under which the Office of the Attorney General has made exceptions to the \$525 per hour cap set forth in the July 17, 2023 memorandum referenced in her testimony? If so, please provide all documents and information related to that investigation.