

Filing Receipt

Filed Date - 2025-06-04 09:09:30 AM

Control Number - 56481

Item Number - 94

Suffix: WS

BEFORE THE STATE OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS

COMPLAINT OF TRINITY EDWARDS SPRINGS PROTECTION ASSOCIATION, BRENT PULLEY, AND DEAN EICHELBERGER AGAINST AQUA TEXAS, INC.

SOAH ORDER NO. 6 GRANTING AQUA'S MOTION FOR IN PERSON HEARING

On May 19, 2025, Aqua Texas, Inc. (Aqua Texas) requested that the hearing on the merits be held in person at the State Office of Administrative Hearing's (SOAH) Austin headquarters instead of remotely via Zoom.¹ Aqua asserts an in-person hearing would allow for more effective and efficient participation by the participants and will not be burdensome as the counsel for all parties, Aqua's witnesses, and the Complainants (Brent Pulley, Dean Eichelberger, and Trinity

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¹ Aqua Texas, Inc.'s Motion for In-Person Hearing (May 19, 2025).

Edwards Springs Protection Association) are located either in Austin or in neighboring Hays County.

Aqua conferred with the other parties about its request and staff (Staff) of the Public Utility Commission of Texas currently opposes an in-person hearing.² However, Aqua noted that Staff stated it might revise its position and be amenable to attending the hearing in-person as the hearing date approaches closer. Aqua stresses that, for logistical reasons, its request is better addressed now, rather than waiting to see if Staff's position changes over time. Staff did not respond or object to Aqua's motion.

For SOAH's planning purposes, it is better to address this request sooner than later so that a hearing room can be reserved and so that the parties have an earlier confirmation on how they will need to appear to participate in the hearing. Aqua's motion is **GRANTED**. Accordingly, it is **ORDERED** that the hearing will be held **October 28-31, 2025, beginning each day at 9:00 AM (CT).** The hearing will be held at the State Office of Administrative Hearings (SOAH), **300 West 15th Street, Austin, Texas, Room 404.**

Those attending the hearing in person who do not have a state-issued identification badge should be prepared to register with a security guard on the first floor of the building. Having the docket number of the case and photo identification card will expedite the registration. The Administrative Law Judges (ALJs)

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² Aqua noted Complainants do not oppose an in-person hearing and Complainants did not object to Aqua's motion.

recommend arriving early to secure parking and check in with security so that the hearing may begin on time.

All exhibits in SOAH hearings are electronic. When attending an in-person hearing, parties should not bring exhibit notebooks or provide paper "courtesy copies" for the ALJs or other parties. Parties may bring their own paper copies of exhibits to reference during the hearing, but those copies must be removed from the hearing room at the conclusion of the hearing. SOAH's docketing division will not accept paper copies of exhibits, and the ALJs will be viewing the exhibits electronically throughout the proceeding. Any demonstrative exhibits used at the hearing must be filed in electronic form.

Signed June 4, 2025

ALJ Signatures:

Meaghth Bailey

Administrative Law Judge

Amy Davis

Administrative Law Judge