



Filing Receipt

Filing Date - 2024-08-28 10:58:36 AM

Control Number - 56822

Item Number - 59

PUC DOCKET NO. 56822

**INVESTIGATION OF EMERGENCY
PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE BY
UTILITIES IN HOUSTON AND
SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES**

§
§
§
§
§

**BEFORE THE
PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
OF TEXAS**

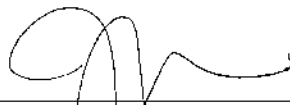
**CITY OF HILSHIRE VILLAGE'S RESPONSE TO
COMMISSION STAFF'S FIRST REQUEST FOR INFORMATION**

The City of Hilshire Village (Hilshire Village or City) files this Response to the First Request for Information (RFI) filed by the Staff (Staff) of the Public Utility Commission of Texas (Commission). The discovery request was received by the City on August 6, 2024 and Staff requested responses be filed no later than August 30, 2024; therefore, these responses are timely filed. Pursuant to 16 Texas Administrative Code (TAC) § 22.144(c)(2)(F), these responses may be treated as if they were filed under oath.

Respectfully submitted,

**LLOYD GOSSELINK ROCHELLE
& TOWNSEND, P.C.**

816 Congress Avenue, Suite 1900
Austin, Texas 78701
(512) 322-5800
(512) 472-0532 (Fax)



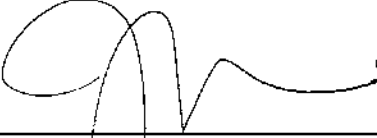
JAMIE L. MAULDIN
State Bar No. 24065694
jmauldin@lglawfirm.com

SAMANTHA N. MILLER
State Bar No. 24131515
smiller@lglawfirm.com

**ATTORNEYS FOR THE CITY OF HILSHIRE
VILLAGE**

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 August 28, 2024, in accordance with the Order Suspending Rules, issued in Project No. 50664.



JAMIE L. MAULDIN

PUC DOCKET NO. 56822

HILSHIRE VILLAGE'S RESPONSE TO STAFF'S FIRST RFI

LG 1-1

Do you perform your own hurricane or major storm drills? If you do not, please provide a brief explanation of what your jurisdiction would need to start conducting these drills. If you do, please respond to the following questions:

- a) How often do you conduct a drill? When did you last conduct a hurricane or major storm drill?
- b) Please describe the drill and provide information concerning the category of hurricane drilled and any conditions used in the drill.
- c) Does your drill change? If so, how did your drill change from the last time you conducted a drill?
- d) If you used one, please provide the name(s) of any third-party vendor used to assist or conduct the hurricane or major storm drill.
- e) Please provide the name(s) of departments in your jurisdiction that participated or were invited to participate in the hurricane or major storm drill and describe their level of involvement with the drill.
- f) Please provide the name(s) of other local governments and any local, community, or county organizations that participated or were invited to participate in the hurricane or major storm drill and describe their level of involvement with the drill.
- g) Please provide the name(s) of any trade organization that participated or were invited to participate in the hurricane or major storm drill and describe their level of involvement with the drill.
- h) Please provide the name(s) of any utility company that participated or were invited to participate in the hurricane or major storm drill and describe their level of involvement with the drill.

RESPONSE: No. We have an EOC and Emergency Plan through the shared Fire Department of the six (6) Memorial Villages. To my knowledge, a drill has not been conducted in the last five (5) years.

Prepared by: City Secretary Cassie Stephens
Sponsored by: City Secretary Cassie Stephens

PUC DOCKET NO. 56822

HILSHIRE VILLAGE'S RESPONSE TO STAFF'S FIRST RFI

LG 1-2

Did AEP, CenterPoint, Entergy, TNMP or other electric, water, or sewer utilities request your participation in their 2024 hurricane or major storm drill? If yes:

- a) Please provide the name(s) of the requesting utility.
- b) Please provide the date of the drill.
- c) Please provide information concerning the category of hurricane drilled and any conditions used in the drill.
- d) Please describe in detail your role and level of participation in the hurricane or major storm drill. In your response, please indicate the role played by individual city or county services.
- e) Did you participate in a post-drill review with the organizing utility? If yes, please describe the post-drill review and what feedback you provided.

RESPONSE: No.

Prepared by: City Secretary Cassie Stephens
Sponsored by: City Secretary Cassie Stephens

PUC DOCKET NO. 56822

HILSHIRE VILLAGE'S RESPONSE TO STAFF'S FIRST RFI

LG 1-3 If known, please provide the date the Texas Department of Emergency management contacted you concerning the May 2024 Derecho and Hurricane Beryl.

RESPONSE: On 6/10/2024 we received notice that the April/May severe weather event received a FEMA major disaster declaration. DR 4781- Texas Severe Storms, Straight-Line Winds, Tornadoes, and Flooding open for RPA's (Request for Public Assistance) via the FEMA Grants Portal Website. We were invited to one of two applicant briefing virtual meetings.

On 7/16/2024 we received notice that Hurricane Beryl has received a FEMA major disaster declaration for both Category A and B work. DR-4798 Texas Hurricane Beryl is now open for RPA's via the Grants Portal Website. We were invited to a TDEM hosted Applicant Briefing Meeting (several dates available).

Prepared by: City Secretary Cassie Stephens
Sponsored by: City Secretary Cassie Stephens

PUC DOCKET NO. 56822

HILSHIRE VILLAGE'S RESPONSE TO STAFF'S FIRST RFI

LG 1-4 If known, please provide the date your electric service provider contacted you concerning the May 2024 Derecho and Hurricane Beryl.

RESPONSE: Neither my service provider nor CenterPoint contacted me concerning either storm.

Prepared by: City Secretary Cassie Stephens
Sponsored by: City Secretary Cassie Stephens

PUC DOCKET NO. 56822

HILSHIRE VILLAGE'S RESPONSE TO STAFF'S FIRST RFI

LG 1-5 Were you contacted by any water or sewer utilities concerning Hurricane Beryl? If so, please identify the utilities and provide the date the utility(s) contacted you.

RESPONSE: No.

Prepared by: City Secretary Cassie Stephens
Sponsored by: City Secretary Cassie Stephens

PUC DOCKET NO. 56822

HILSHIRE VILLAGE'S RESPONSE TO STAFF'S FIRST RFI

LG 1-6 To the best of your ability, please provide a timeline of communications between local officials and the utility(s) identified in Staff 1-4 and Staff 1-5 concerning the May 2024 Derecho and Hurricane Beryl.

RESPONSE: None.

Prepared by: City Secretary Cassie Stephens
Sponsored by: City Secretary Cassie Stephens

PUC DOCKET NO. 56822

HILSHIRE VILLAGE'S RESPONSE TO STAFF'S FIRST RFI

LG 1-7

Do you consult or coordinate with utilities about storm hardening within your jurisdiction or help to identify utility infrastructure that needs to be repaired before the start of the hurricane season? If yes:

- a) Please identify the utilities you consulted or coordinated with in 2023 or 2024 and the approximate date you last consulted or coordinated with them.
- b) Please describe the extent of your consultation or coordination.
- c) How often do you consult with utilities about electric distribution and transmission equipment (e.g., powerlines, poles, reclosers, transformers) with regarding strategy or prioritization of repairs and replacement of equipment?

RESPONSE: No. At an annual meeting for the Spring Branch area on June 26, 2024, CenterPoint representatives checked the tree trimming schedule for Hilshire Village, which is based on a grid system. They indicated an upcoming month for assessment, but no further coordination took place. Citizens' reports regarding the need for tree trimming are directed to CenterPoint's reporting system, as the easements are in the rear of properties.

Prepared by: City Secretary Cassie Stephens
Sponsored by: City Secretary Cassie Stephens

PUC DOCKET NO. 56822

HILSHIRE VILLAGE'S RESPONSE TO STAFF'S FIRST RFI

LG 1-8 Please provide a list of local ordinances, protocols, or policies concerning transportation of heavy equipment through your jurisdiction.

- a) For each of the identified ordinances, protocols, or policies, what is the typical turn-around time from receipt of a request to issuance of a permit?
- b) Please describe, at a high level, the permitting process for the identified ordinances, protocols, or policies.
- c) For each identified ordinance, protocol, or policy, provide the length of time the obtained permit remains valid and enforceable.
- d) Did your jurisdiction waive compliance with any of these ordinances during either the May 2024 Derecho or Hurricane Beryl? If so, please identify which ordinances were waived and for how long the waivers remained in effect.

RESPONSE: None.

Prepared by: City Secretary Cassie Stephens
Sponsored by: City Secretary Cassie Stephens

PUC DOCKET NO. 56822

HILSHIRE VILLAGE'S RESPONSE TO STAFF'S FIRST RFI

LG 1-9 Please identify any specific issues that stand out to you concerning the deployment of mobile generation facilities during the May 2024 Derecho and Hurricane Beryl.

RESPONSE: Timeliness of deployment, coordination with cities and public communication.

Prepared by: City Secretary Cassie Stephens
Sponsored by: City Secretary Cassie Stephens

PUC DOCKET NO. 56822

HILSHIRE VILLAGE'S RESPONSE TO STAFF'S FIRST RFI

LG 1-10 Please provide a list of local ordinances, protocols, or policies concerning vegetation management, including any restrictions on the size of utility easements or utility rights-of-way.

RESPONSE: There are no maximum sizes for easements or rights-of-way. Below are the portions of the City of Hilshire Village, Texas's Code of Ordinances that concern vegetation management.

Chapter 7 - OFFENSES & NUISANCES;

• **ARTICLE 7.400. - BLOCKAGE OF RIGHT-OF-WAY**

(a) No person, firm, corporation or other entity shall place or permit to be placed, any dirt, sand, gravel, concrete, asphalt or other material in, or upon any public rights-of-way, ditch or drain area, except as provided for in this Article. The material stated herein shall include any material that would alter, change, divert, impede, or dam any drainage ditch area. Ditches are to remain open and without culverts except as stated in subsection (b).

• **ARTICLE 7.700. - TREE PRESERVATION;**

Sec. 7.706. - Replacement of Trees.

(1) If, after loss of or removal of a tree, a lot does not or will not satisfy the minimum tree requirement as described in section 7.703(1) or (2), as applicable, then the lot owner shall, within one hundred twenty (120) days after loss of or removal of such tree, properly plant a replacement tree from the approved tree list. The replacement tree shall be at least three (3) inches in diameter measured at six (6) inches above the grade for each lost or removed tree. A tree intended as a replacement tree shall not be planted in the Harris County Flood Control District or in a utility easement, but nothing in this article is otherwise intended to prohibit the planting of trees in the Harris County Flood Control District or a utility easement.

Sec. 7.710. - Exemptions from Requirements of this Article.

(1) The provisions of this article shall not apply to trees removed or trimmed within an easement for public or private utilities by the easement's owner, or the owner's employee or authorized contractor, or by the utility provider or its authorized contractor, if the trimming or removal of such trees is required to properly use or maintain the easement. This article shall also not apply to trees removed or trimmed by the city or its authorized representative or by the utility provider or its authorized contractor on any public property or within any public right-of-way, including, but not limited to, drainage easements and roadway easements.

PUC DOCKET NO. 56822

HILSHIRE VILLAGE'S RESPONSE TO STAFF'S FIRST RFI

Chapter 9 – SUBDIVISIONS

- ARTICLE 9.100. - SUBDIVISION REGULATIONS;

Sec. 9.109. - Requirements for the Subdivision and Re-Subdivision of Land.

(f) Easements. Parallel ten-foot utility easements shall be required on both sides of any street unless the city engineer determines that existing easements are sufficient and that a narrower easement will be sufficient for the use of utilities. If reasonably required by any utility, an adequate aerial easement shall also be provided.

Prepared by: City Secretary Cassie Stephens
Sponsored by: City Secretary Cassie Stephens

HILSHIRE VILLAGE'S RESPONSE TO STAFF'S FIRST RFI

LG 1-11 Please provide a description of any process by which an electric or telecommunications utility may petition the local government to remove dead or damaged trees or branches near, but not within, a utility easement or utility right-of-way.

RESPONSE: They would need to supply the City with detailed documentation of the hazardous trees or branches including photographs and specific risk descriptions. We would then work with the homeowner to get the tree trimmed or removed.

Below is the relevant portion of Hilshire Village's Code of Ordinances pertaining to the removal of trees from a lot owner's property.

Chapter 7 - OFFENSES & NUISANCES;

- ARTICLE 7.700. - TREE PRESERVATION;

Sec. 7.705. - Removal of Trees.

(5) The city may require a lot owner to remove any tree that is damaged, dead or dying, and that the city deems a danger to person or property. The owner shall have fourteen (14) days after receipt of the notice to remove the tree.

Prepared by: City Secretary Cassie Stephens
Sponsored by: City Secretary Cassie Stephens

HILSHIRE VILLAGE'S RESPONSE TO STAFF'S FIRST REI

LG 1-12 Please provide a list of local ordinances, protocols, or policies that require a property owner to remove dead trees on their property.

- a) Does your jurisdiction have an individual or group that oversees any program related to these ordinances, protocols, or policies?
- b) How often are properties inspected for compliance with the identified ordinances, protocols, or policies? Please include the date and zip codes for any inspections conducted from January 1, 2024 through June 30, 2024.
- c) Do you coordinate with utilities about the results of these inspections? If yes, please indicate the last date and nature of such coordination that occurred before July 8, 2024.

RESPONSE: Below is a section of Hilshire Village's Code of Ordinances that require a property owner to remove trees on their property

Chapter 7 - OFFENSES & NUISANCES;

• ARTICLE 7.700. - TREE PRESERVATION;

Sec. 7.705. - Removal of Trees.

(5) The city may require a lot owner to remove any tree that is damaged, dead or dying, and that the city deems a danger to person or property. The owner shall have fourteen (14) days after receipt of the notice to remove the tree.

- a) No
- b) Front yards and visible areas from the street are inspected by city staff on a weekly basis as part of city-wide compliance.
- c) No

Prepared by: City Secretary Cassie Stephens
Sponsored by: City Secretary Cassie Stephens

PUC DOCKET NO. 56822

HILSHIRE VILLAGE'S RESPONSE TO STAFF'S FIRST RFI

LG 1-13 Do you have a trained arborist on staff? If yes, please describe and define their duties before and after a major storm event

RESPONSE: Yes, but they do not have a role in storm events.

Prepared by: City Secretary Cassie Stephens
Sponsored by: City Secretary Cassie Stephens

HILSHIRE VILLAGE'S RESPONSE TO STAFF'S FIRST RFI

LG 1-14 Do you maintain a list of critical infrastructure (e.g., telecommunication systems, police stations, water or sewer facilities), medical and eldercare facilities (e.g., hospitals, in-patient treatment facilities, nursing homes, assisted living facilities), or community centers and organizations (e.g., churches, homeless shelters, schools, daycares) within your area? If yes:

- a) Did your jurisdiction share this information with TDEM or any utility(s) before, during, or in the aftermath of the May 2024 Derecho or Hurricane Beryl?
- b) Did any utility request the information? If yes, please list which utility(s) requested this information and the date the information was requested.

RESPONSE: Yes, we maintain a list of critical infrastructure including telecommunications, water and sewer utilities, and schools and churches.

- a) No
- b) No

Prepared by: City Secretary Cassie Stephens
Sponsored by: City Secretary Cassie Stephens

HILSHIRE VILLAGE'S RESPONSE TO STAFF'S FIRST RFI

LG 1-15 Were you involved in any discussions with any utility(s) or TDEM concerning prioritizing restoration of critical infrastructure or critical care facilities for purposes of determining how mobile generation facilities would be deployed in the aftermath of the May 2024 Derecho or Hurricane Beryl? If yes:

- a) Please identify which entities participated in these discussions.
- b) Please describe the discussion(s) with each of the entities.
- c) Please state whether, in your opinion, the identified entities followed the guidance or guidelines you provided concerning the deployment of mobile generation facilities in the aftermath of the May 2024 Derecho or Hurricane Beryl.

RESPONSE: No

Prepared by: City Secretary Cassie Stephens
Sponsored by: City Secretary Cassie Stephens

PUC DOCKET NO. 56822

HILSHIRE VILLAGE'S RESPONSE TO STAFF'S FIRST RFI

LG 1-16 Describe the level of communication between you and any utility(s) before, during, and in the aftermath of the May 2024 Derecho or Hurricane Beryl.

RESPONSE: Limited to none.

Prepared by: City Secretary Cassie Stephens
Sponsored by: City Secretary Cassie Stephens

PUC DOCKET NO. 56822

HILSHIRE VILLAGE'S RESPONSE TO STAFF'S FIRST RFI

LG 1-17 If known, please identify the percentage of homes and businesses in your area that have a smart electric meter connection.

RESPONSE: Unknown.

Prepared by: City Secretary Cassie Stephens
Sponsored by: City Secretary Cassie Stephens

PUC DOCKET NO. 56822

HILSHIRE VILLAGE'S RESPONSE TO STAFF'S FIRST RFI

LG 1-18 If known, please identify the percentage of homes and businesses in your area that have a smart water meter connection.

RESPONSE: None.

Prepared by: City Secretary Cassie Stephens
Sponsored by: City Secretary Cassie Stephens

HILSHIRE VILLAGE'S RESPONSE TO STAFF'S FIRST RFI

LG 1-19 Please provide any additional information that may be helpful to this investigation.

RESPONSE: None

Prepared by: City Secretary Cassie Stephens
Sponsored by: City Secretary Cassie Stephens