

CHRISTI CRADDICK, CHAIRMAN
WAYNE CHRISTIAN, COMMISSIONER
JIM WRIGHT, COMMISSIONER



DANA AVANT LEWIS, DIRECTOR

RAILROAD COMMISSION OF TEXAS HEARINGS DIVISION

October 30, 2024

TO: ALL GOVERNING BODIES

Re: **OS-24-00017816, consolidated:** *Statement of Intent of West Texas Gas Utility, LLC, to Increase Gas Utility Rates Within the Unincorporated Areas of Texas*

Enclosed is the Notice of Hearing for the above-referenced gas utility docket at the Railroad Commission of Texas. No action is required on your part. This Notice was issued to the parties in this docket on October 28, 2024, and is being provided to you, as governing body of an affected municipality or county, in accordance with the Texas Utilities Code.¹

Contact for Additional Information – *In accordance with Tex. Gov't Code § 2001.061 and 16 Tex. Admin. Code § 1.6, ex parte communications with the Administrative Law Judges, Examiners, and Commissioners are prohibited. Any persons or entities desiring additional information may contact the Commission by writing to the Director, Hearings Division, Railroad Commission of Texas, 1701 North Congress Avenue, P. O. Box 12967, Capitol Station, and Austin, Texas 78711-2967. Any persons or entities having clerical questions, such as questions regarding the number of copies of filings, the service list or reviewing the record, may contact Docket Services, at (512) 463-6848.*

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John Dodson", written over a horizontal line.

John Dodson
Administrative Law Judge

Enclosure

¹ See Tex. Util. Code § 104.105(c) ("The regulatory body shall give reasonable notice of the hearing, including notice to the governing body of each affected municipality and county.").

**RAILROAD COMMISSION OF TEXAS
HEARINGS DIVISION**

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| STATEMENT OF INTENT OF WEST | § | |
| TEXAS GAS UTILITY, LLC, TO | § | |
| INCREASE GAS UTILITY RATES | § | OS-24-00017816, |
| WITHIN THE UNINCORPORATED | § | Consolidated |
| AREAS OF TEXAS | § | |

NOTICE OF HEARING

Summary of the Proceeding and Factual Matters Asserted. On July 16, 2024, West Texas Gas Utility, LLC (“WTGU”), filed with the Commission a statement of intent to increase gas utility rates within the unincorporated areas it serves in Texas (the “SOI”). The SOI was docketed as OS-24-00017816. In its SOI, WTGU requests that the Commission approve a schedule of rates for customers consistent with those proposed in its SOI, along with other related relief, and also approve recovery by WTGU of its reasonable rate case expenses associated with this docket.

On October 21, 2024, the parties jointly notified the presiding Administrative Law Judge of a unanimous settlement resolving all issues.

On October 23, 2024, the presiding judge, finding that common questions of law and fact existed, consolidated with the main SOI docket four petitions for review filed by WTGU of related municipal ratemaking actions: OS-24-00018241, OS-24-00018528, OS-24-00018550, and OS-24-00018636.

Intervening Parties. Two parties intervened and participated throughout this docket: Staff of the Railroad Commission (“Commission Staff”), who intervened “to assert its interest in assuring that the rules and regulations of the Railroad Commission of Texas, together with the appropriate statutes, have been followed”; and the Alliance of WTG Municipalities (“AWM”), a coalition of municipal customers of WTGU.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT a public hearing will be held, at the time and place set out below, to consider all issues of fact and law raised in—or relevant to—WTGU’s requested relief. The scope of the hearing may be limited to the parties’ settlement and may include the consideration of recovery by the parties of their associated rate case expenses, as well as any appeals of related municipal actions.

Legal Authority and Jurisdiction. The Commission has, or may have, jurisdiction over WTGU and the matters at issue in this proceeding pursuant to Texas Utilities Code Sections 102.001 (Railroad Commission Jurisdiction), 103.003 (Surrender of Municipal Jurisdiction to Railroad Commission; Reinstatement of Jurisdiction), 103.051 (Appeal by Party), 103.052 (Appeal by Residents), 103.053 (Appeal by Ratepayers Outside Municipality), and 104.001 (Authorization to Establish and Regulate Rates).

The presiding Administrative Law Judge shall conduct the hearing pursuant to the requirements of Chapter 2001 (Administrative Procedure) of the Texas Government Code, and pursuant to Title 16, Part 1 (Railroad Commission of Texas), of the Texas Administrative Code.

Particular Statutes and Rules Involved. The statutes and rules applicable to this proceeding may include the following:

1. Title 3 (Gas Regulation) of the Texas Utilities Code, including Chapters 101 (General Provisions and Office of Public Utility Counsel), 102 (Jurisdiction and Powers of Railroad Commission and Other Regulatory Authorities), 103 (Jurisdiction and Powers of Municipality), and 104 (Rates and Services);
2. Title 16, Part 1 (Railroad Commission of Texas), of the Texas Administrative Code, including Chapters 1 (Practice and Procedure) and 7 (Gas Services Division); and
3. Chapter 2001 (Administrative Procedure) of the Texas Government Code.


Time, Place, and Nature of Hearing. **IT IS DIRECTED** the hearing on the merits shall commence at **9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, November 20, 2024, via the Zoom online platform.** The Zoom link will be circulated to the service list via e-mail prior to the start of the hearing. Members of the public may request the link by e-mailing: Sharon.Koren@rrc.texas.gov. If not concluded on the day it commences, the hearing will be continued from day to day, as announced, until concluded. All parties desiring to present sworn testimony, documentary and demonstrative evidence, and argument regarding any issue of law or fact at the hearing shall appear personally or by an attorney.

Written Transcript of the Hearing. The record of the hearing will be made by recording device or by stenographic transcription by the court reporter. Any party that desires a copy of the written transcript of the hearing should contact the court reporter at (512) 474-2233. The Commission may assess the cost of the transcript or expedited transcript to one or more parties pursuant to Section 2001.059 (Transcript) of the Texas Government Code.

Auxiliary Aids or Services for Persons with a Disability. Any individual with a disability who needs auxiliary aids and services to have an equal opportunity to effectively communicate and participate in the hearing must request such aids or services at least two weeks prior to the hearing by notifying the Commission's Docket Services by mail at P. O. Box 12967, Austin, Texas 78711-2967 or by telephone at (512) 463-6848 or TDD No. (800) 735-2989.

Contact for Additional Information. *Ex parte communications with the Commissioners, Administrative Law Judges, and Technical Examiners are prohibited. Clerical questions, such as questions regarding the number of copies of filings, the service list, or reviewing the record, may be directed to Docket Services at (512) 463-6848 or docketservices@rrc.texas.gov.*

Signed on October 28, 2024.



**JOHN B. DODSON
ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE**