

**STAFF REPORT REGARDING CENTERPOINT ENERGY RESOURCES
CORP., D/B/A CENTERPOINT ENERGY ENTEX AND CENTERPOINT
ENERGY TEXAS GAS'S STATEMENT OF INTENT TO CHANGE RATES
IN THE TEXAS DIVISION**

**ACTION MUST BE TAKEN TO SUSPEND THE EFFECTIVE DATE ON OR BEFORE
DECEMBER 4, 2023**

On October 30, 2023, CenterPoint Energy Resources Corp., d/b/a CenterPoint Energy Entex and CenterPoint Energy Texas Gas (CenterPoint or Company), filed a Statement of Intent seeking to change rates in the Texas Division. In the filing, the Company asserts it is entitled to a \$37.4 million increase in annual non-gas revenue or a 5.8% increase over current adjusted revenues, excluding gas costs. In addition to requesting a change in rates, the Company is proposing to consolidate the Houston, Texas Coast, South Texas and Beaumont/East Texas Divisions into a new single division, the Texas Division.

The law provides that a rate request made by a gas utility cannot become effective until at least 35 days following the filing of the application to change rates. CenterPoint has proposed an effective date of December 4, 2023. The law permits the City to suspend the rate change for 90 days after the date the rate change would otherwise be effective. **If the City fails to take some action regarding the filing before the effective date, CenterPoint's rate request is deemed administratively approved.**

Purpose of Resolution:

The purpose of the Resolution is to authorize membership of the City into the Cities Served by CenterPoint Gas coalition, to extend the effective date of the Company's proposed rate increase, and to give the City time to review the rate-filing package. The resolution suspends the December 4, 2023 effective date of the Company's request for the maximum period permitted by law to allow the City to evaluate the filing, determine whether the filing complies with law, and if lawful, to determine what further strategy to pursue, including settlement and ultimately to approve reasonable rates. The Resolution must be passed before December 4, 2023.

Explanation of "Be It Ordained" Paragraphs:

Section 1. This section incorporates the "whereas" provisions in preamble into the Resolution.

Section 2. The City is authorized to suspend the rate change for 90 days after the date that the rate change would otherwise be effective so long as the City has a legitimate purpose. Time to study and investigate the application is always a legitimate purpose. Please note that the resolution refers to the suspension period as the "maximum period allowed by law" rather than ending by a specific date. This is because the Company controls the effective date and can extend its effective date and, therefore, extend the deadline for final city action to increase the time that the City retains jurisdiction (for example, if necessary to reach settlement on the case).

If the effective date is not otherwise extended by the Company, the City must take final action on CenterPoint's request to raise rates by December 4, 2023.

Section 3. This section confirms that the City has authorized formal membership into the Cities Served by CenterPoint Gas (Cities) and authorizes the hiring of outside attorneys and consultants to work on this matter.

Section 4. This section explains that, as a member of Cities, the City will work with the coalition to review the application to insure fair and just rates and authorizes intervention in the Railroad Commission proceeding.

Section 5. By law, the Company must reimburse the cities for their reasonable rate case expenses. Legal counsel and consultants approved by Cities will present their invoices to Cities which will then seek reimbursement from CenterPoint. The City will not incur liability for payment of rate case expenses by adopting a suspension resolution.

Section 6. This section merely recites that the resolution was passed at a meeting that was open to the public and that the consideration of the resolution was properly noticed.

Section 7. This section provides that both CenterPoint's designated representative and counsel for Cities will be notified of the City's action by sending a copy of the approved and signed resolution to certain designated individuals.

Section 8. This section identifies the effective date of the Resolution as the time it is adopted.

Recommendation

The City Staff recommends adoption of the resolution suspending the effective date of CenterPoint's proposed rate increase.