

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



DANA AVANT LEWIS, *DIRECTOR*

RAILROAD COMMISSION OF TEXAS HEARINGS DIVISION

March 6, 2024

The Honorable Bob Buesinger
City of Hilshire Village
8301 Westview Dr.
Houston, TX 77055-6737

Re: **OS-23-00015513, consolidated:** Statement of Intent Filed by CenterPoint Energy Resources Corp., d/b/a CenterPoint Energy Entex and CenterPoint Energy Texas Gas to Change Rates in the Unincorporated Areas and Municipalities That Have Ceded Original Jurisdiction Within the Houston, Texas Coast, Beaumont/East Texas, and South Texas Divisions

Dear Mayor Buesinger:

Enclosed is the Notice of Hearing for the above-referenced gas utility docket at the Railroad Commission of Texas. This Notice of Hearing was issued on February 27, 2024, and is being provided to you, as governing body of an affected county/municipality, in accordance with the Texas Utilities Code.¹

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Brennan J. Foley".

Brennan J. Foley
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.").

BEFORE THE RAILROAD COMMISSION OF TEXAS

STATEMENT OF INTENT OF
CENTERPOINT ENERGY RESOURCES
CORP., D/B/A CENTERPOINT ENERGY
ENTEX AND CENTERPOINT ENERGY
TEXAS GAS TO CHANGE RATES IN THE
UNINCORPORATED AREAS AND
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HOUSTON, TEXAS COAST,
BEAUMONT/EAST TEXAS, AND SOUTH
TEXAS DIVISIONS

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HEARINGS DIVISION
OS-23-00015513, consolidated

NOTICE OF HEARING

Summary of the Proceeding and Factual Matters Asserted. On October 30, 2023, CenterPoint Energy Resources Corp., d/b/a CenterPoint Energy Entex and CenterPoint Energy Texas Gas (“CenterPoint Texas”) filed with the Commission a statement of intent (“SOI”) to change gas utility rates within its proposed Texas Division. The SOI was docketed as OS-23-00015513. As part of its rate filing, CenterPoint Texas requests that the Commission: (1) approve the tariffs and rate schedules attached to its SOI to become effective for bills rendered on and after December 4, 2023; (2) approve the consolidation its existing Houston, Texas Coast, South Texas, and Beaumont/East Texas Divisions into the new Texas Division; (3) approve the prudence of capital investment made in the proposed Texas Division through September 30, 2023; (4) approve new depreciation rates; (5) approve its requested accounting changes and treatments; (6) approve a surcharge to recover reasonable rate case expenses or otherwise sever consideration of rate case expenses into a separate docket; and (7) grant CenterPoint Texas such further relief to which it may be entitled by law.

CenterPoint Texas also filed statements of intent to increase rates with the municipalities that have original jurisdiction over rates within a municipality and municipalities that have ceded original jurisdiction to the Commission.

On November 15, 2023, the Commission suspended the effective date of CenterPoint Texas’s rate change for 150 days, pursuant to Section 104.107 (Rate Suspension; Deadline) of the Gas Utility Regulatory Act (“GURA”) of the Texas Utilities Code.

On February 13, 2024, all issues related to rate case expanses were severed into a separate proceeding and docketed as OS-24-00016343.

Intervening Parties. Intervenors in this case include the Staff of the Railroad Commission of Texas, Cities Served by CenterPoint Gas, the Alliance of CenterPoint Municipalities, the City of Houston, and the Steering Committee of Cities.

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 CenterPoint Texas’s statement of intent to change rates.

Legal Authority and Jurisdiction. The Commission has, or may have, jurisdiction over CenterPoint Texas and the matters at issue in this proceeding pursuant to GURA 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), 104.001 (Authorization to Establish and Regulate Rates), and 121.051 (Gas Utility: Public Interest and Jurisdiction of Railroad Commission).

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

Particular Statutes and Rules Involved. The statutes and rules applicable to this proceeding may include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. All sections in GURA 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), 104 (Rates and Services), and 121 (Gas Pipelines); and
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).

Time, Place, and Nature of Hearing. IT IS DIRECTED that the hearing on the merits shall commence at **9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, April 10, 2024, in the William B. Travis Building, located at 1701 North Congress Avenue, Austin, Texas.** Please check with Docket Services (Room 12-110) the morning of the hearing for the room location. If the hearing is not concluded on the day it commences, the hearing will be continued from day to day, as announced, until concluded.

IT IS FURTHER DIRECTED that all parties desiring to present sworn testimony, documentary and demonstrative evidence, and argument regarding any issue of law or fact at the final hearing on the merits shall appear in person or by an attorney. For good cause shown, the ALJ may permit part of the proceeding to be conducted telephonically pursuant to Commission Rule § 1.112 (Proceedings by Telephony).

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 written transcription 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 Human Resources Department of the Commission by mail at P.O. Box 12967, Austin, Texas 78711-2967 or by telephone at (512) 463-6981 or TDD No. (800) 735-2989.

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 ALJ, 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.

Signed on February 27, 2024.



BRENNAN J. FOLEY
ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE