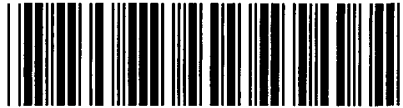


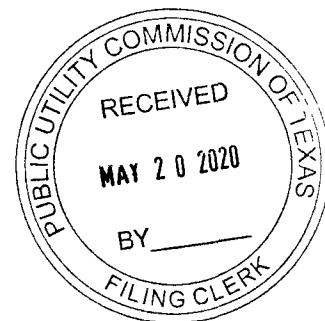


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**SOAH DOCKET NO. 473-20-0417
PUC DOCKET NO. 49603**

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| APPLICATION OF UPSHUR RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE CORPORATION TO AMEND ITS CERTIFICATE OF CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY FOR A 138-KV TRANSMISSION LINE IN HARRISON COUNTY (HALLSVILLE – GUM SPRINGS) | § § § § § § § § | BEFORE THE STATE OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS |
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**SOAH ORDER NO. 11
REQUESTING ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**


On May 15, 2020, Upshur Rural Electric Cooperative Corporation (URECC) filed a second joint motion for continuance (Motion). Based on continuing concerns related to COVID-19, URECC and several parties ask that the hearing on the merits be continued until mid-August 2020. The parties also ask that the deadline for parties to identify witnesses they wish to cross-examine be set a week before the hearing on the merits begins. URECC states it agrees to extend the statutory deadline for each day the hearing on the merits is delayed from its original starting date of March 30, 2020. No party opposes the motion for continuance.


It is not clear from the Motion if the parties expect that continuing the hearing on the merits to mid-August would result in a live, in-person hearing. The Administrative Law Judges (ALJs) note that the current practice with regard to State Office of Administrative Hearings (SOAH) hearings, consistent with the Office of Court Administration's and Texas Supreme Court's guidelines, is that SOAH hearings will be conducted telephonically or by videoconference to the extent feasible. Requests for live hearings must be accompanied by a letter or brief showing good cause why the use of remote technologies is not feasible or in the interest of justice. This practice remains in effect until further notice by order of the Chief Administrative Law Judge. Therefore, even if the hearing on the merits is postponed until mid-August, the hearing may nevertheless be held by remote technology if the restrictions against live hearings have not been lifted.

With this information, the ALJs request that, by **May 29, 2020**, the parties advise whether

they want the hearing continued to mid-August regardless of whether it is conducted as a live or virtual hearing. If the parties want the hearing continued until mid-August regardless of whether it is a live or a virtual hearing, the continuance will be granted in an order to be issued shortly after May 29, 2020.

SIGNED May 20, 2020.


STEVEN H. NEENAST
ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE
STATE OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS


ANDREW LUTOSTANSKI
ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE
STATE OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS