

Emergency Interconnection Procedure for Public Water Systems

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When agreement is reached between utilities for emergency interconnection

If an **emergency interconnection agreement is reached** by an affected retail public utility and a neighboring retail public utility, the affected retail public utility should either submit plans and specifications or a request for emergency authorization for the proposed interconnection. If the affected retail public utility submits a request for emergency authorization, the utility should contact the TCEQ Regional Office concerning the request, the Regional Office will contact the Water Supply Division to concur with the request and the Water Supply Division will issue a letter authorizing construction stipulating that plans and specification for the interconnection must be submitted within 30 calendar days.

When NO agreement is reached between utilities for emergency interconnection

If an **emergency interconnection agreement cannot be reached** by the affected retail public utility and a neighboring retail public utility, the affected retail public utility may submit a petition to the TCEQ under Texas Water Code Section 13.041(d)(2) to compel a neighboring retail public utility to provide an emergency interconnection for the provision of temporary water or sewer service for not more that 90 days if service discontinuance or serious impairment in service is imminent or has occurred. The petition must include the following information:

- a) An explanation of the emergency, such as water level in the well or lake is low.
- b) Information that demonstrates that the petitioner has attempted to reach an emergency interconnection agreement with the neighboring retail public utility.
- c) An explanation of how the affected retail public utility will pay for the emergency interconnection.
- d) Filing fee of \$100.
- e) Stage of restrictions for water use the customers from the affected retail utility's drought contingency plan.
- f) The affected retail public utility should either submit plans and specifications or a request for emergency authorization for the proposed interconnection. If the affected retail public utility submits a request for emergency authorization, the utility should contact the TCEQ Regional Office concerning the request, the Regional Office will contact the Water Supply Division to concur with the request and the Water Supply Division will issues a letter authorizing construction stipulating that plans and specification for the interconnection must be submitted within 30 calendar days.

The TCEQ will expedite review of the petition and plans or emergency authorization for the emergency interconnection. The petitioner or neighboring retail public utility may be contacted by TCEQ staff for additional information. When the petition is complete and TCEQ staff has completed their review, the matter will be scheduled to be considered by the Commissioners in a timely manner.