

Executive Summary – Enforcement Matter – Case No. 63598

Aqua Texas, Inc.

RN102686409

Docket No. 2023-0211-PWS-E

Order Type:

Findings Agreed Order

Findings Order Justification:

Three repeated enforcement actions (or two orders with nuisance violations) over the prior five year period for the same violation(s).

Media:

PWS

Small Business:

No

Location(s) Where Violation(s) Occurred:

Blue Medina Water, 2042 Rio Ranchero Road, Lakehills, Bandera County

Type of Operation:

Public water supply

Other Significant Matters:

Additional Pending Enforcement Actions: No

Past-Due Penalties: No

Other: N/A

Interested Third-Parties: None

Texas Register Publication Date: April 19, 2024

Comments Received: No

Penalty Information

Total Penalty Assessed: \$2,250

Total Paid to General Revenue: \$2,250

Total Due to General Revenue: \$0

Payment Plan: N/A

Compliance History Classifications:

Person/CN - Satisfactory

Site/RN - N/A

Major Source: Yes

Statutory Limit Adjustment: N/A

Applicable Penalty Policy: January 2021

Investigation Information

Complaint Date(s): N/A

Complaint Information: N/A

Date(s) of Investigation: January 9, 2023 through January 20, 2023

Date(s) of NOE(s): January 20, 2023

Executive Summary – Enforcement Matter – Case No. 63598

Aqua Texas, Inc.

RN102686409

Docket No. 2023-0211-PWS-E

Violation Information

Failed to comply with the maximum contaminant level of 0.080 milligrams per liter for total trihalomethanes based on the locational running annual average [30 TEX. ADMIN. CODE § 290.115(f)(1) and TEX. HEALTH & SAFETY CODE § 341.0315(c)].

Corrective Actions/Technical Requirements

Corrective Action(s) Completed:

By March 23, 2023, the Respondent returned to compliance with the maximum contaminant level for total trihalomethanes based on the locational running annual average at the Facility.

Technical Requirements:

N/A

Contact Information

TCEQ Attorney: N/A

TCEQ Enforcement Coordinator: Tessa Bond, Enforcement Division, Enforcement Team 4, MC 219, (512) 239-1269; Michael Parrish, Enforcement Division, MC 219, (512) 239-2548

Respondent: Craig Blanchette, President, Aqua Texas, Inc., 762 West Lancaster Avenue, Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania 19010-3489

Respondent's Attorney: N/A



Penalty Calculation Worksheet (PCW)

Policy Revision 5 (January 28, 2021)

PCW Revision February 11, 2021

DATES	Assigned	23-Jan-2023			
	PCW	8-Feb-2023	Screening	7-Feb-2023	EPA Due 31-Mar-2023

RESPONDENT/FACILITY INFORMATION

Respondent	Aqua Texas, Inc.				
Reg. Ent. Ref. No.	RN102686409				
Facility/Site Region	13-San Antonio	Major/Minor Source	Major		

CASE INFORMATION

Enf./Case ID No.	63598	No. of Violations	1
Docket No.	2023-0211-PWS-E	Order Type	Findings
Media Program(s)	Public Water Supply	Government/Non-Profit	No
Multi-Media		Enf. Coordinator	Tessa Bond
		EC's Team	Enforcement Team 4
Admin. Penalty \$ Limit Minimum	\$50	Maximum	\$5,000

Penalty Calculation Section

TOTAL BASE PENALTY (Sum of violation base penalties)	Subtotal 1	\$2,500
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ADJUSTMENTS (+/-) TO SUBTOTAL 1

Subtotals 2-7 are obtained by multiplying the Total Base Penalty (Subtotal 1) by the indicated percentage.

Compliance History	0.0%	Adjustment	Subtotals 2, 3, & 7	\$0
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Notes	No adjustment for compliance history.			
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Culpability	No	0.0%	Enhancement	Subtotal 4	\$0
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Notes	The Respondent does not meet the culpability criteria.				
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Good Faith Effort to Comply Total Adjustments	Subtotal 5	-\$250
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Economic Benefit	0.0%	Enhancement*	Subtotal 6	\$0
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Total EB Amounts	\$255	<i>*Capped at the Total EB \$ Amount</i>
Estimated Cost of Compliance	\$5,000	

SUM OF SUBTOTALS 1-7	Final Subtotal	\$2,250
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OTHER FACTORS AS JUSTICE MAY REQUIRE	0.0%	Adjustment	\$0
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Reduces or enhances the Final Subtotal by the indicated percentage.

Notes	

STATUTORY LIMIT ADJUSTMENT	Final Assessed Penalty	\$2,250
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DEFERRAL	0.0%	Reduction	Adjustment	\$0
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Reduces the Final Assessed Penalty by the indicated percentage.

Notes	No deferral is recommended for Findings Orders.			
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PAYABLE PENALTY	\$2,250
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Screening Date7-Feb-2023

RespondentAqua Texas, Inc.

Case ID No.63598

Reg. Ent. Reference No.RN102686409

MediaPublic Water Supply

Enf. CoordinatorTessa Bond

Docket No.2023-0211-PWS-E

PCW

Policy Revision 5 (January 28, 2021)

PCW Revision February 11, 2021

Compliance History Worksheet

>> Compliance History Site Enhancement (Subtotal 2)

Component	Number of...	Number	Adjust.
NOVs	Written notices of violation ("NOVs") with same or similar violations as those in the current enforcement action (<i>number of NOVs meeting criteria</i>)	0	0%
	Other written NOVs	0	0%
Orders	Any agreed final enforcement orders containing a denial of liability (<i>number of orders meeting criteria</i>)	0	0%
	Any adjudicated final enforcement orders, agreed final enforcement orders without a denial of liability, or default orders of this state or the federal government, or any final prohibitory emergency orders issued by the commission	0	0%
Judgments and Consent Decrees	Any non-adjudicated final court judgments or consent decrees containing a denial of liability of this state or the federal government (<i>number of judgments or consent decrees meeting criteria</i>)	0	0%
	Any adjudicated final court judgments and default judgments, or non-adjudicated final court judgments or consent decrees without a denial of liability, of this state or the federal government	0	0%
Convictions	Any criminal convictions of this state or the federal government (<i>number of counts</i>)	0	0%
Emissions	Chronic excessive emissions events (<i>number of events</i>)	0	0%
Audits	Letters notifying the executive director of an intended audit conducted under the Texas Environmental, Health, and Safety Audit Privilege Act, 74th Legislature, 1995 (<i>number of audits for which notices were submitted</i>)	0	0%
	Disclosures of violations under the Texas Environmental, Health, and Safety Audit Privilege Act, 74th Legislature, 1995 (<i>number of audits for which violations were disclosed</i>)	0	0%
Other	Environmental management systems in place for one year or more	No	0%
	Voluntary on-site compliance assessments conducted by the executive director under a special assistance program	No	0%
	Participation in a voluntary pollution reduction program	No	0%
	Early compliance with, or offer of a product that meets future state or federal government environmental requirements	No	0%

Adjustment Percentage (Subtotal 2)0%

>> Repeat Violator (Subtotal 3)

N/A

Adjustment Percentage (Subtotal 3)0%

>> Compliance History Person Classification (Subtotal 7)

Satisfactory Performer

Adjustment Percentage (Subtotal 7)0%

>> Compliance History Summary

Compliance History Notes	No adjustment for compliance history.
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Total Compliance History Adjustment Percentage (Subtotals 2, 3, & 7)0%

>> Final Compliance History Adjustment

Final Adjustment Percentage *capped at 100%0%

Screening Date 7-Feb-2023		Docket No. 2023-0211-PWS-E		PCW	
Respondent Aqua Texas, Inc.		<i>Policy Revision 5 (January 28, 2021)</i>			
Case ID No. 63598		<i>PCW Revision February 11, 2021</i>			
Reg. Ent. Reference No. RN102686409					
Media Public Water Supply					
Enf. Coordinator Tessa Bond					
Violation Number		1			
Rule Cite(s)		30 Tex. Admin. Code § 290.115(f)(1) and Tex. Health & Safety Code § 341.0315(c)			
Violation Description		Failed to comply with the maximum contaminant level ("MCL") of 0.080 milligrams per liter ("mg/L") for trihalomethanes ("TTHM"), based on the locational running annual average. Specifically, the locational running annual average concentrations of TTHM for Stage 2 Disinfection Byproducts ("DBP2") at Site 2 were 0.096 mg/L for the second quarter of 2022, 0.098 mg/L for the third quarter of 2022, and 0.090 mg/L for the fourth quarter of 2022.			
		Base Penalty		\$5,000	
>> Environmental, Property and Human Health Matrix					
OR	Release		Harm		
	Major	Moderate	Minor		
	Actual	X			
	Potential				Percent 50.0%
>>Programmatic Matrix					
	Falsification	Major	Moderate	Minor	
					Percent 0.0%
Matrix Notes		Exceeding the MCL for TTHM caused persons served by the Facility to be exposed to a significant amount of contaminants which did not exceed levels protective of human health.			
				Adjustment	\$2,500
					\$2,500
>> Violation Events					
Number of Violation Events		1	274	Number of violation days	
	daily				
	weekly				
	monthly				
	quarterly				
	semiannual				
	annual	X		Violation Base Penalty \$2,500	
	single event				
One annual event is recommended.					
Good Faith Efforts to Comply		10.0%	Reduction		\$250
	Extraordinary		Before NOE/NOV NOE/NOV to EDPRP/Settlement Offer		
	Ordinary		x		
	N/A				
	Notes	The Respondent achieved compliance on March 23, 2023.			
				Violation Subtotal	\$2,250
Economic Benefit (EB) for this violation			Statutory Limit Test		
Estimated EB Amount		\$255	Violation Final Penalty Total		\$2,250
This violation Final Assessed Penalty (adjusted for limits)				\$2,250	

Economic Benefit Worksheet

Respondent Aqua Texas, Inc.
Case ID No. 63598
Reg. Ent. Reference No. RN102686409
Media Public Water Supply
Violation No. 1

Percent Interest	Years of Depreciation
5.0	15

Item Description	Item Cost	Date Required	Final Date	Yrs	Interest Saved	Costs Saved	EB Amount
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Delayed Costs

Equipment				0.00	\$0	\$0	\$0
Buildings				0.00	\$0	\$0	\$0
Other (as needed)	\$5,000	30-Jun-2022	23-Mar-2023	0.73	\$12	\$243	\$255
Engineering/Construction				0.00	\$0	\$0	\$0
Land				0.00	\$0	n/a	\$0
Record Keeping System				0.00	\$0	n/a	\$0
Training/Sampling				0.00	\$0	n/a	\$0
Remediation/Disposal				0.00	\$0	n/a	\$0
Permit Costs				0.00	\$0	n/a	\$0
Other (as needed)				0.00	\$0	n/a	\$0
Notes for DELAYED costs	The delayed cost includes the estimated amount to investigate, identify, and implement the necessary corrective actions to return to compliance with the MCL for TTHM, calculated from the last day of the first quarter of noncompliance to the date of compliance.						

Avoided Costs

ANNUALIZE avoided costs before entering item (except for one-time avoided costs)

Disposal				0.00	\$0	\$0	\$0
Personnel				0.00	\$0	\$0	\$0
Inspection/Reporting/Sampling				0.00	\$0	\$0	\$0
Supplies/Equipment				0.00	\$0	\$0	\$0
Financial Assurance				0.00	\$0	\$0	\$0
ONE-TIME avoided costs				0.00	\$0	\$0	\$0
Other (as needed)				0.00	\$0	\$0	\$0
Notes for AVOIDED costs							

Approx. Cost of Compliance	\$5,000	TOTAL	\$255
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Compliance History Report

Compliance History Report for CN604062463, RN102686409, Rating Year 2023 which includes Compliance History (CH) components from September 1, 2018, through August 31, 2023.

Customer, Respondent, or Owner/Operator:	CN604062463, Aqua Texas, Inc.	Classification:	SATISFACTORY	Rating:	3.56
Regulated Entity:	RN102686409, BLUE MEDINA WATER	Classification:	NOT APPLICABLE	Rating:	N/A
Complexity Points:	N/A	Repeat Violator:	N/A		
CH Group:	14 - Other				
Location:	2042 RIO RANCHERO ROAD IN LAKEHILLS, BANDERA COUNTY, TEXAS				
TCEQ Region:	REGION 13 - SAN ANTONIO				
ID Number(s):					
PUBLIC WATER SYSTEM/SUPPLY REGISTRATION	0100030				
Compliance History Period:	September 01, 2018 to August 31, 2023	Rating Year:	2023	Rating Date:	09/01/2023
Date Compliance History Report Prepared:	January 18, 2024				
Agency Decision Requiring Compliance History:	Enforcement				
Component Period Selected:	January 18, 2019 to January 18, 2024				
TCEQ Staff Member to Contact for Additional Information Regarding This Compliance History.					
Name:	Tessa Bond		Phone:	(512) 239-1269	

Site and Owner/Operator History:

- | | |
|--|-----|
| 1) Has the site been in existence and/or operation for the full five year compliance period? | YES |
| 2) Has there been a (known) change in ownership/operator of the site during the compliance period? | NO |

Components (Multimedia) for the Site Are Listed in Sections A - J

A. Final Orders, court judgments, and consent decrees:
N/A

B. Criminal convictions:
N/A

C. Chronic excessive emissions events:
N/A

D. The approval dates of investigations (CCEDS Inv. Track. No.):
Item 3 December 02, 2022 (1852670)

E. Written notices of violations (NOV) (CCEDS Inv. Track. No.):
A notice of violation represents a written allegation of a violation of a specific regulatory requirement from the commission to a regulated entity. A notice of violation is not a final enforcement action, nor proof that a violation has actually occurred.
N/A

F. Environmental audits:
N/A

G. Type of environmental management systems (EMSs):
N/A

H. Voluntary on-site compliance assessment dates:

N/A

I. Participation in a voluntary pollution reduction program:

N/A

J. Early compliance:

N/A

Sites Outside of Texas:

N/A

Component Appendices

Appendix A

All NOVs Issued During Component Period 1/18/2019 and 1/18/2024

1	Date: 06/14/2022 (1869037)		
	Self Report? NO	Classification: Moderate	
	Citation:		
	Description: 30 TAC Chapter 290, SubChapter F 290.115(f)(1) TTHM LRAA MCL 2Q2022 – During the 2nd quarter of 2022 the system violated the maximum contaminant level for trihalomethanes with a LRAA of 0.096 mg/L at 1813 Rio Ranchero, Pipe Creek (DBP2-02). ETT Point Value = 5		
2	Date: 08/04/2022 (1869037)		
	Self Report? NO	Classification: Moderate	
	Citation:		
	Description: 30 TAC Chapter 290, SubChapter F 290.115(f)(1) TTHM LRAA MCL 3Q2022 – During the 3rd quarter of 2022 the system violated the maximum contaminant level for trihalomethanes with a LRAA of 0.098 mg/L at 1813 Rio Ranchero, Pipe Creek (DBP2-02). ETT Point Value = 5		
3*	Date: 01/04/2023 (1869037)		
	Self Report? NO	Classification: Moderate	
	Citation:		
	Description: 30 TAC Chapter 290, SubChapter F 290.115(f)(1) TTHM LRAA MCL 4Q2022 – During the 4th quarter of 2022 the system violated the maximum contaminant level for trihalomethanes with a LRAA of 0.090 mg/L at 1813 Rio Ranchero, Pipe Creek (DBP2-02). ETT Point Value = 5		

* NOVs applicable for the Compliance History rating period 9/1/2018 to 8/31/2023

Appendix B

All Investigations Conducted During Component Period January 18, 2019 and January 18, 2024

Item 1	January 23, 2019**	(1518550)
Item 2*	December 02, 2022**	(1852670)
Item 3	January 19, 2023**	(1869037)
Item 4	January 20, 2023**	(1872956)

* No violations documented during this investigation

**Investigation applicable for the Compliance History Rating period between 09/01/2018 and 08/31/2023.

TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY



IN THE MATTER OF AN
ENFORCEMENT ACTION
CONCERNING
AQUA TEXAS, INC.
RN102686409

§ BEFORE THE
§
§ TEXAS COMMISSION ON
§
§ ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

AGREED ORDER DOCKET NO. 2023-0211-PWS-E

On _____, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality ("the Commission" or "TCEQ") considered this agreement of the parties, resolving an enforcement action regarding Aqua Texas, Inc. (the "Respondent") under the authority of TEX. HEALTH & SAFETY CODE ch. 341. The Executive Director of the TCEQ, through the Enforcement Division, and the Respondent presented this Order to the Commission.

The Respondent understands that it has certain procedural rights at certain points in the enforcement process, including the right to formal notice of violations, notice of an evidentiary hearing, the right to an evidentiary hearing, and a right to appeal. By entering into this Order, the Respondent agrees to waive all notice and procedural rights.

It is further understood and agreed that this Order represents the complete and fully-integrated agreement of the parties. The provisions of this Order are deemed severable and, if a court of competent jurisdiction or other appropriate authority deems any provision of this Order unenforceable, the remaining provisions shall be valid and enforceable. The duties and responsibilities imposed by this Order are binding upon the Respondent.

The Commission makes the following Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law:

I. FINDINGS OF FACT

1. The Respondent owns and operates a public water supply located at 2042 Rio Ranchero Road in Lakehills, Bandera County, Texas (the "Facility"). The Facility provides water for human consumption, has approximately 80 service connections, and serves at least 25 people per day for at least 60 days per year. As such, the Facility is a public water system as defined in 30 TEX. ADMIN. CODE § 290.38(73).
2. During a record review for the Facility conducted on January 9, 2023 through January 20, 2023, an investigator documented that the locational running annual average concentrations of trihalomethanes ("TTHM") for Stage 2 Disinfection Byproducts ("DBP2") at Site 2 were 0.096 milligrams per liter ("mg/L") for the second quarter of 2022, 0.098 mg/L for the third quarter of 2022, and 0.090 mg/L for the fourth quarter of 2022.
3. The Executive Director recognizes that by March 23, 2023, the Respondent returned to compliance with the maximum contaminant level ("MCL") for TTHM, based on the locational running annual average at the Facility.

II. CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. As evidenced by Finding of Fact No. 1, the Respondent is subject to the jurisdiction of the TCEQ pursuant to TEX. HEALTH & SAFETY CODE ch. 341 and the rules of the TCEQ.
2. As evidenced by Finding of Fact No. 2, the Respondent failed to comply with the MCL of 0.080 mg/L for TTHM, based on the locational running annual average, in violation of 30 TEX. ADMIN. CODE § 290.115(f)(1) and TEX. HEALTH & SAFETY CODE § 341.0315(c).
3. Pursuant to TEX. HEALTH & SAFETY CODE § 341.049(a), the TCEQ has the authority to assess an administrative penalty against the Respondent for violations of state statutes within the TCEQ's jurisdiction, for violations of rules adopted under such statutes, or for violations of orders or permits issued under such statutes.
4. An administrative penalty in the amount of \$2,250 is justified by the facts recited in this Order, and considered in light of the factors set forth in TEX. HEALTH & SAFETY CODE § 341.049(b). The Respondent paid the \$2,250 penalty.

III. ORDERING PROVISIONS

NOW, THEREFORE, THE TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ORDERS that:

1. The Respondent is assessed a penalty as set forth in Conclusion of Law No. 4 for violations of state statutes and rules of the TCEQ. The payment of this penalty and the Respondent's compliance with all the requirements set forth in this Order resolve only the matters set forth by this Order in this action. The Commission shall not be constrained in any manner from requiring corrective actions or penalties for violations that are not raised here. Penalty payments shall be made payable to "TCEQ" and shall be sent with the notation "Re: Aqua Texas, Inc., Docket No. 2023-0211-PWS-E" to:

Financial Administration Division, Revenue Operations Section
Attention: Cashier's Office, MC 214
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
P.O. Box 13088
Austin, Texas 78711-3088
2. All relief not expressly granted in this Order is denied.
3. The duties and provisions imposed by this Order shall apply to and be binding upon the Respondent. The Respondent is ordered to give notice of this Order to personnel who maintain day-to-day control over the Facility operations referenced in this Order.
4. The Executive Director may grant an extension of any deadline in this Order or in any plan, report, or other document submitted pursuant to this Order, upon a written and substantiated showing of good cause. All requests for extensions by the Respondent shall be made in writing to the Executive Director. Extensions are not effective until the Respondent receives written approval from the Executive Director. The determination of what constitutes good cause rests solely with the Executive Director.

5. The Executive Director may, without further notice or hearing, refer this matter to the Office of the Attorney General of the State of Texas ("OAG") for further enforcement proceedings if the Executive Director determines that the Respondent has not complied with one or more of the terms in this Order.
6. This Order shall terminate five years from its effective date or upon compliance with all the terms and conditions set forth in this Order, whichever is later.
7. This Order, issued by the Commission, shall not be admissible against the Respondent in a civil proceeding, unless the proceeding is brought by the OAG to: (1) enforce the terms of this Order; or (2) pursue violations of a statute within the Commission's jurisdiction, or of a rule adopted or an order or permit issued by the Commission under such a statute.
8. This Order may be executed in separate and multiple counterparts, which together shall constitute a single instrument. Any page of this Order may be copied, scanned, digitized, converted to electronic portable document format ("pdf"), or otherwise reproduced and may be transmitted by digital or electronic transmission, including but not limited to facsimile transmission and electronic mail. Any signature affixed to this Order shall constitute an original signature for all purposes and may be used, filed, substituted, or issued for any purpose for which an original signature could be used. The term "signature" shall include manual signatures and true and accurate reproductions of manual signatures created, executed, endorsed, adopted, or authorized by the person or persons to whom the signatures are attributable. Signatures may be copied or reproduced digitally, electronically, by photocopying, engraving, imprinting, lithographing, electronic mail, facsimile transmission, stamping, or any other means or process which the Executive Director deems acceptable. In this paragraph exclusively, the terms: electronic transmission, owner, person, writing, and written, shall have the meanings assigned to them under TEX. BUS. ORG. CODE § 1.002.
9. The effective date of this Order is the date it is signed by the Commission. A copy of this fully executed Order shall be provided to each of the parties.

SIGNATURE PAGE

TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

For the Commission

Date



For the Executive Director

5/7/2024

Date

I, the undersigned, have read and understand the attached Order. I am authorized to agree to the attached Order, and I do agree to the terms and conditions specified therein. I further acknowledge that the TCEQ, in accepting payment for the penalty amount, is materially relying on such representation.

I also understand that failure to comply with the Ordering Provisions, if any, in this Order and/or failure to timely pay the penalty amount, may result in:

- A negative impact on compliance history;
- Greater scrutiny of any permit applications submitted;
- Referral of this case to the OAG for contempt, injunctive relief, additional penalties, and/or attorney fees, or to a collection agency;
- Increased penalties in any future enforcement actions;
- Automatic referral to the OAG of any future enforcement actions; and
- TCEQ seeking other relief as authorized by law.

In addition, any falsification of any compliance documents may result in criminal prosecution.



Signature

3/7/24
Date

5-7 Craig Blanchette

Name (Printed or typed)
Authorized Representative of
Aqua Texas, Inc.

President

Title

☐ If mailing address has changed, please check this box and provide the new address below:

Instructions: Send the original, signed Order with penalty payment to the Financial Administration Division, Revenue Operations Section at the address in Ordering Provision 1 of this Order.