## **TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY**



AN INTERIM ORDER

concerning the application by Clear Utilities, LLC for new TPDES Permit No. WQ0016360001; TCEQ Docket No. 2024-1720-MWD.

On December 18, 2024, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (Commission) considered during its open meeting requests for hearing and reconsideration concerning the application by Clear Utilities, LLC (Applicant) for new TPDES Permit No. WQ0016360001. The application seeks authorization to discharge treated domestic wastewater at a daily average flow not to exceed 75,000 gallons per day (gpd). The wastewater treatment facility will be located approximately 0.49 of a mile northwest of the intersection of Cemetery Road and Country Side Street, in Galveston County, Texas.

The requests for hearing and reconsideration were evaluated under the requirements in the applicable statutes and Commission rules, including 30 Tex. Admin. Code Chapter 55. The Commission also considered the responses to the requests for hearing and reconsideration filed by the Executive Director, the Office of Public Interest Counsel, and the Applicant; replies; all timely public comment; and the Executive Director's Response to Public Comment.

After evaluation of all relevant filings, the Commission determined that Robert Martinez is an affected person and granted his request for hearing. The Commission determined that the remaining hearing requests and requests for reconsideration be denied.

The Commission next determined whether the granted requests for hearing raised disputed issues of fact or mixed questions of fact and law that were raised by an affected person during the comment period, and that are relevant and material to the decision on the application. The Commission

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determined that the following issues met those requirements and directed that they be referred to the State Office of Administrative Hearings (SOAH) for a contested case hearing with a concurrent referral to the Commission's Alternative Dispute Resolution Program: 1) Whether the draft permit is protective of water quality, including the protection of surface and groundwater, in accordance with applicable regulations including the 30 Tex. Admin. Code Chapter 307 Texas Surface Water Quality Standards; 2) Whether the draft permit adequately addresses nuisance odor in accordance with 30 Tex. Admin. Code § 309.13; and 3) Whether the draft permit is adequately protective of the requesters' and their families' health. Finally, the Commission specified that the maximum duration of the contested case hearing shall be 180 days from the date of the preliminary hearing until the proposal for decision is issued by SOAH.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDERED BY THE TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY that:

- 1) The hearing request of Robert Martinez is hereby GRANTED;
- 2) The remaining hearing requests and requests for reconsideration are hereby DENIED;
- 3) The following issues are referred to SOAH for a contested case hearing on the application, with a concurrent referral to the Commission's Alternative Dispute Resolution Program:
  - A) Whether the draft permit is protective of water quality, including the protection of surface and groundwater, in accordance with applicable regulations including the 30 Tex. Admin. Code Chapter 307 Texas Surface Water Quality Standards;
  - B) Whether the draft permit adequately addresses nuisance odor in accordance with 30 Tex. Admin. Code § 309.13; and
  - C) Whether the draft permit is adequately protective of the requesters' and their families' health.
- 4) All issues not identified as being referred to SOAH in Ordering Provision No. 3 are hereby DENIED;
- 5) The maximum duration of the hearing is set at 180 days from the date of the preliminary hearing until the date the proposal for decision is issued by SOAH; and

6) If any provision, sentence, clause, or phrase of this Order is for any reason held to be invalid, the invalidity of any portion shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of the Order.

TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

For the Commission 12/18/2021 Date Signed