

PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF TEXAS

OPEN MEETING AGENDA MONDAY, MARCH 16, 2020, 3:00 P.M. Commissioners' Hearing Room 7th Floor, William B. Travis Building

Project No. 50664 – Issues Related to the State of Disaster for Coronavirus Disease 2019.

In accordance with section 551.045 of the Texas Government Code, the Public Utility Commission of Texas is giving notice that it will convene a meeting to address an emergency and urgent public necessity. On March 13, 2020, Governor Greg Abbott certified that the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) poses an imminent threat of disaster and declared a state of disaster for all counties of Texas. The Commission has mandated that employees of the agency begin teleworking on March 16, 2020 in accordance with the encouragement of the Governor and the directions of local, state, and federal government health agencies to take actions to limit exposure to the virus and the rate of spread of the disease.

The addition of this item will allow the Commission to address the imminent threat to public health and safety by this epidemic by considering whether rules of the Commission must be suspended for the duration of this disaster to allow the Commission to carry out its responsibilities under the law. Rules of the Commission require that certain action be taken in person or within specified times that are incompatible with the teleworking mode that the Commission has initiated in response to the disaster. Without such suspensions, the work of the Commission could be prevented, hindered, or delayed and the provision of utility service to the citizens of Texas could be impaired or disrupted.

Due to the emergency conditions resulting from this disaster, as declared by the Governor, these matters cannot wait for a regularly scheduled open meeting of the Commission, which could not occur before March 24, 2020. Accordingly, the Commission must meet promptly to discuss and possibly take action on the suspension of its rules, the circumstances imposed by this epidemic, and to assist in implementing the Governor's disaster proclamation. The actions the Commission may take include the issuance of orders to suspend Commission rules, to facilitate implementation of the Governor's proclamation, and the delegation of authority.