

CHAPTER 24. SUBSTANTIVE RULES APPLICABLE TO WATER AND SEWER SERVICE PROVIDERS.

Subchapter B. RATES AND TARIFFS.

§24.27. Notice of Intent and Application to Change Rates Pursuant to Texas Water Code §13.187 or §13.1871.

- (a) **Purpose.** This section describes the requirements for the contents of an application to change rates and the requirements for the provision of notice pursuant to TWC §13.187 or §13.1871.
- (b) **Contents of the application.** An application to change rates pursuant to TWC §13.187 or §13.1871 is initiated by the filing of a rate filing package, a statement of intent to change rates, and the proposed form and method of notice to customers and other affected entities pursuant to subsection (c) of this section.
- (1) The application shall include the commission's rate filing package form and include all required schedules.
 - (2) The application shall be based on a test year as defined in §24.3(72) of this title (relating to Definitions of Terms).
 - (3) For an application filed pursuant to TWC §13.187, the rate filing package, including each schedule, shall be supported by pre-filed direct testimony. The pre-filed direct testimony shall be filed at the same time as the application to change rates.
 - (4) For an application filed pursuant to TWC §13.1871, the rate filing package, including each schedule, shall be supported by affidavit. The affidavit shall be filed at the same time as the application to change rates. The utility may file pre-filed direct testimony at the same time as the application to change rates. If the application is set for a hearing, the presiding officer may require the filing of pre-filed direct testimony at a later date.
 - (5) **Proof of notice.** Proof of notice in the form of an affidavit stating that proper notice was mailed, e-mailed, or delivered to customers and affected municipalities and stating the date(s) of such delivery shall be filed with the commission by the applicant utility as part of the rate change application.
- (c) **Notice requirements specific to applications filed pursuant to TWC §13.187.**
- (1) **Notice of the application.** In order to change rates pursuant to TWC §13.187, a utility must comply with the following requirements at least 35 days before the effective date of the proposed change.
 - (A) The utility must file a statement of intent (notice) with the commission and provide a copy of the notice to all customers of the utility affected by the proposed rate change, to the appropriate offices of each municipality affected by the proposed rate change, and to the Office of Public Utility Counsel.
 - (B) Notice shall be provided using the commission-approved form and shall include a description of the process by which a ratepayer may intervene in the proceeding.
 - (C) This notice shall state the docket number assigned to the rate application. Prior to the provision of notice, the utility shall file a request for the assignment of a docket number for the rate application.
 - (D) Notices to affected ratepayers may be mailed separately, e-mailed (if the customer has agreed to receive communications electronically), or may accompany customer billings.
 - (E) Notice is considered to be completed upon mailing, e-mailing (if the customer has agreed to receive communications electronically), or hand delivery.
 - (2) **Notice of the hearing.** After the rate application is set for a hearing, the commission shall give reasonable notice of the hearing, including notice to the governing body of each affected municipality and county. The commission may require the utility to complete this

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notice requirement. The commission may delegate to an administrative law judge of the State Office of Administrative Hearings the responsibility and authority to give reasonable notice of the hearing, including notice to the governing body of each affected municipality and county.

- (d) **Notice requirements specific to applications filed pursuant to TWC §13.1871.**
- (1) **Notice of the application.** In order to change rates pursuant to TWC §13.1871, a utility must comply with the following requirements at least 35 days before the effective date of the proposed change.
- (A) The utility must file a notice with the commission and provide a copy of the notice to all customers of the utility affected by the proposed rate change and to the appropriate offices of each municipality affected by the proposed rate change, and to the Office of Public Utility Counsel.
 - (B) Notice shall be provided using the commission-approved form and shall include a description of the process by which a ratepayer may file a protest pursuant to TWC §13.1871(i).
 - (C) For Class B utilities, the notice shall state the docket number assigned to the rate application. Prior to providing notice, Class B utilities shall file a request for the assignment of a docket number for the rate application.
 - (D) Notices to affected ratepayers may be mailed separately, e-mailed (if the customer has agreed to receive communications electronically), or may accompany customer billings.
 - (E) Notice is considered to be completed upon mailing, e-mailing (if the customer has agreed to receive communications electronically), or hand delivery.
- (2) **Notice of the hearing.** After the rate application is set for a hearing, the following notice requirements shall apply.
- (A) The commission shall give reasonable notice of the hearing, including notice to the governing body of each affected municipality and county. The commission may require the utility to complete this notice requirement. The commission may delegate to an administrative law judge of the State Office of Administrative Hearings the responsibility and authority to give reasonable notice for the hearing, including notice to the governing body of each affected municipality and county.
 - (B) The utility shall mail notice of the hearing to each affected ratepayer at least 20 days before the hearing. The notice must include a description of the process by which a ratepayer may intervene in the proceeding.
- (e) **Line extension and construction policies.** A request to approve or amend a utility's line extension and construction policy shall be filed in a rate change application under TWC §13.187 or §13.1871. The application filed under TWC §13.187 or §13.1871 must include the proposed tariff and other information requested by the commission. The request may be made with a request to change one or more of the utility's other rates.
- (f) **Capital improvements surcharge.** In a rate proceeding pursuant to TWC §13.187 or TWC §13.1871, the commission may authorize collection of additional revenues from the customers pursuant to a surcharge to provide funds for capital improvements necessary to provide facilities capable of providing continuous and adequate utility service, and for the preparation of design and planning documents.

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- (g) **Debt repayments surcharge.** In a rate proceeding pursuant to TWC §13.187 or TWC §13.1871, the commission may authorize collection of additional revenues from customers pursuant to a surcharge to provide funds for debt repayments and associated costs, including funds necessary to establish contingency funds and reserve funds. Surcharge funds may be collected to meet all of the requirements of the Texas Water Development Board in regard to financial assistance from the Safe Drinking Water Revolving Fund.