

PUBLIC NOTICE OF HEARING ON THE SALE OF GRAHAM COUNTY UTILITIES INC.'S GAS DIVISION ASSETS TO THE CITY OF SAFFORD AND FOR APPROVAL OF AN EXTENSION OF GRAHAM COUNTY UTILITIES INC.'S WATER DIVISION CERTIFICATE OF CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY. (DOCKET NOS. G-2527A-21-0060 AND W-02527A-21-0060)

Summary

On March 31, 2021, Graham County Utilities, Inc. ("GCU" or "Company") filed an application with the Arizona Corporation Commission ("Commission") for approval of the sale or transfer of its Gas Division assets to the City of Safford, and for approval of an extension and modification to the Certificate of Convenience and Necessity (CC&N") for its Water Division. GCU and the City of Safford have entered into a Service Area Exchange Agreement whereby the service territory and assets of GCU's Gas Division will be transferred to the City of Safford, and in exchange, the City of Safford will transfer portions of its water service territory and water utility assets to GCU's Water Division. GCU also requests approval to extend its water CC&N to include the customers to be acquired from City of Safford, The water service area to be acquired by GCU from the City of Safford, the proposed CC&N extension area, is in portions of Sections 3, 4, and 9 of Township 7 South, Range 25 East, and portions of Sections 27, 28, 32, 33, and 34 of Township 6 South, Range 25 East, of the Gila and Salt River Base and Meridian, Graham County, Arizona.

THE COMMISSION IS NOT BOUND BY THE PROPOSALS OF GRAHAM COUNTY UTILITIES INC., STAFF, OR ANY INTERVENORS. THE COMMISSION WILL DETERMINE THE APPROPRIATE RELIEF TO BE GRANTED IN RESPONSE TO THE APPLICATION BASED ON THE EVIDENCE PRESENTED IN THE MATTER.

How You Can View or Obtain a Copy of the Application

Copies of the Application are available from **Graham County Utilities Inc. at 9 W Center St, Pima, AZ 85543 or www.gce.coop**; at the Commission's Docket Control Center at 1200 West Washington Street, Phoenix, Arizona, and the Commission's office at 400 West Congress Street, Suite 218, Tucson, Arizona, during regular business hours; and on the Commission website (www.azcc.gov) using the e-Docket function.

Arizona Corporation Commission Public Hearing Information

The Commission will hold a hearing on this matter beginning **September 15, 2021, at 10:00 a.m.**, at the Commission's Tucson offices, Room 222, 400 West Congress Street, Tucson, Arizona 85701. **The hearing will be held via videoconference with telephonic public comment.**

Public comment will be taken telephonically at the beginning of the first day of hearing. To provide telephonic public comments, **call 1-888-450-5996 and enter this code: #457395, by 10:00 a.m. on the date of the hearing.**

Written public comments may be submitted by mailing a letter referencing **Docket No. G-02527A-21-0060 and W-02527A-21-0060** to Arizona Corporation Commission, Consumer Services Section, 1200 West Washington, Phoenix, AZ 85007, or by submitting comments on the Commission's website (www.azcc.gov) by clicking on "Cases and Open Meetings" and "Make a Public Comment in a Docket." If you require assistance, you may contact the Consumer Services Section at 602-542-4251 or 1-800-222-7000.

If you do not intervene in this proceeding, you will receive no further notice of the proceedings in this docket unless you sign up to Follow the Docket. However, all documents filed in this docket are available online (usually within 24 hours after docketing) at the Commission's website (www.azcc.gov) using the eDocket function. **Information on how to Follow a Docket is available on the Commission's website by clicking on "Cases and Open Meetings" and "Follow a Docket or Document Type."**

About Intervention

The law provides for an open public hearing at which, under appropriate circumstances, interested persons may intervene. An interested person may be granted intervention if the outcome of the case will directly and substantially impact the person, and the person's intervention will not unduly broaden the issues in the case. Intervention, among other things, entitles a party to present sworn evidence at hearing and to cross-examine other parties' witnesses. **Intervention is not required for you to appear at the hearing and provide public comment, to file written comments in the record of the case, or to receive emailed notice of each filing made in the case by following the docket.**

Information about what intervention means, including an explanation of the rights and responsibilities of an intervenor, is available on the Commission's website (www.azcc.gov) by clicking on **"Cases and Open Meetings"** and then clicking on **"Intervene in a Case."** The information includes a Sample Intervention Request and a Fillable Intervention Request Form.

To request intervention, you must file a written request to intervene, either (a) by filing a hard copy request (meeting filing requirements) with Docket Control (Docket Control, 1200 West Washington, Phoenix, AZ 85007), or (b) by eFiling the request. Your request **must be filed or eFiled no later than August 18, 2021**. Instructions and restrictions for eFiling are available on the Commission's website at <http://azcc.gov/hearing/efile-for-utilities-instruction>. You also **must** serve a copy of the request to intervene on each party of record, on the same day that you file the request to intervene with the Commission.

Your request to intervene **must** contain the information below:

1. Your name, address, and telephone number;
2. The docket number for the case in which you are requesting to intervene;
3. A short statement explaining:
 - a. Your interest in the proceeding (e.g., a customer of the regulated company involved, a property owner in an area to be affected by the case, etc.),
 - b. How you will be directly and substantially affected by the outcome of the case, and
 - c. Why your intervention will not unduly broaden the issues in the case;
4. If a hearing has not been scheduled, whether and why you believe a hearing is needed;
5. A statement certifying that you have sent a copy of your request to intervene to the regulated company or its attorney and to all other parties of record in the case; and
6. If you are not represented by an attorney who is an active member of the Arizona State Bar, and you are not representing yourself as an individual, sufficient information and any appropriate documentation to demonstrate compliance with Arizona Supreme Court Rules 31, 38, 39, and 42, as applicable. This only applies if you are NOT representing yourself and you are not a licensed attorney.

The granting of motions to intervene shall be governed by A.A.C. R14-3-105, except that all motions to intervene must be filed on or before August 18, 2021.

ADA/Equal Access Information

The Commission does not discriminate on the basis of disability in admission to its public meetings. Persons with a disability may request a reasonable accommodation such as a sign language interpreter, as well as request this document in an alternative format, by contacting the ADA Coordinator, Carolyn Buck, E-mail ADACoordinator@azcc.gov, voice phone number 602-542-2247. Requests should be made as early as possible and no later than 48 hours in advance of the event to allow time to arrange the accommodation.