

**STANDING ORDER
RELATING TO SERVICE OF PROCESS IN
TRANSMISSION LINE CASES REFERRED TO SOAH BY
THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF TEXAS**

WHEREAS, the State Office of Administrative Hearings (SOAH) receives contested case referrals from the Public Utility Commission of Texas (the Commission) for various water and electric utility matters;

WHEREAS, SOAH typically utilizes eFileTexas to provide a unified electronic filing and service system for all referred cases, consistent with the practices of the Texas judiciary and Rule 21a of the Texas Rules of Civil Procedure;

WHEREAS, eFileTexas provides simultaneous electronic delivery of filed documents to all designated service contacts, enabling direct and verifiable service through the generation of automated confirmation of delivery and receipt that satisfies the notice requirements of applicable law.

WHEREAS, the Commission requires the use of its own proprietary filing system, “the Interchange,” for the electronic filing of documents in cases referred to SOAH;

WHEREAS, Commission Rule 22.74(c) provides that a presiding officer may authorize service to be effected by filing on the Interchange, stipulating that service is “complete upon acceptance for filing on the Interchange” rather than requiring each party to serve every other party with each filing;

WHEREAS, in numerous cases since the Commission first adopted the policy underlying Rule 22.74(c) via emergency order during the COVID-19 pandemic, SOAH and the Commission have allowed service to be effected by filing on the Interchange rather than by individual service to every party; *see, e.g., Application of Oncor Electric Delivery Company LLC to Amend its Certificate of Convenience and Necessity for the Ivy League 138-kV Transmission Line in Collin County*, PUC Docket No. 53053, SOAH Order No. 2 at 4-5 (Apr. 19, 2022);

WHEREAS, the Commission has begun referring to SOAH a series of transmission line certificate-of-convenience-and-necessity proceedings related to the Permian Basin Reliability Plan involving hundreds of parties who each require service of filed case documents;

WHEREAS, on occasion, parties have requested to suspend traditional service requirements in favor of relying on the Interchange as the exclusive method of service, except under specific circumstances;

WHEREAS, the manual review of Interchange filings to assemble service contact lists for these cases requires significant administrative resources of SOAH judges and staff, deviates from standard procedures in all other SOAH cases where the service contacts are maintained within eFileTexas, and delays the timely issuance of SOAH orders;

WHEREAS, these proceedings are subject to significant time constraints imposed by a 180-day statutory deadline;

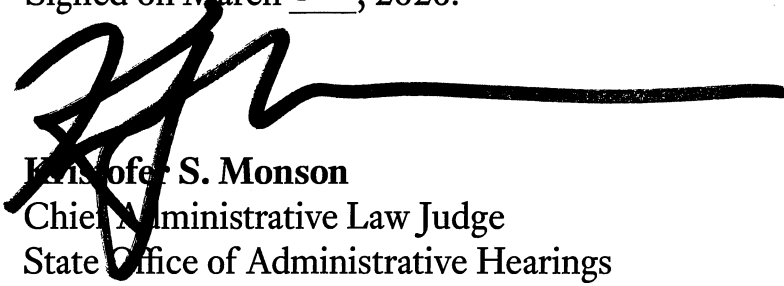
WHEREAS, any administrative delay may result in a loss of time for the parties to present their case, and for SOAH judges and the Commission to complete their deliberations;

THEREFORE, IT IS NOW ORDERED that, effective as of the date of this Standing Order, in each of the Permian Basin Reliability Plan cases:

- 1. The Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) will, upon assignment and SOAH's acceptance of jurisdiction over the case, consider whether to allow service by filing on the Interchange, pursuant to Commission Rule 22.74(c).**
- 2. If the ALJ allows service by filing on the Interchange, the ALJ will provide notice to all parties of such order by filing the order on the Interchange. All subsequent SOAH-issued documents will be served solely by filing on the Interchange.**
- 3. SOAH will continue to upload ALJ-issued orders to eFileTexas for its own internal case administration only, but will not separately provide service of SOAH-issued documents through eFileTexas.**

This Order is intended to aid in the prompt resolution of these cases and promote the efficient use of administrative and party resources.

Signed on March 20, 2026.

A large, bold, handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Chris Monson', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Christopher S. Monson
Chief Administrative Law Judge
State Office of Administrative Hearings