

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF DELAWARE**

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF)
TIDEWATER ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES,)
INC., FOR A CERTIFICATE OF PUBLIC)
CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY TO PROVIDE)
WASTEWATER SERVICES TO FIVE PARCELS) PSC DOCKET NO. 05-WW-014
OF LAND LOCATED BETWEEN BEAVER DAM) (MARINE FARM PROJECT)
AND ROBINSVILLE ROADS, WEST OF THE)
TOWN OF REHOBOTH BEACH, SUSSEX)
COUNTY, DELAWARE)
(FILED JUNE 24, 2005))

ORDER NO. 6704

**CERTIFICATE OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY
TO PROVIDE WASTEWATER SERVICES**

This 23rd day of August, 2005, the Commission determines and Orders the following:

1. By the provisions of 74 Del. Laws ch. 317 (July 6, 2004), the General Assembly and Governor included wastewater systems within the public utilities subject to the regulatory oversight of this Commission. 74 Del. Laws ch. 317 (2004) (amending "public utility" definition in 26 Del. C. § 102(2)).¹

2. The law includes a specific regime for the granting of Certificates of Public Convenience and Necessity ("CPCN") to begin the business of a wastewater public utility or to extend the system and operations of an existing wastewater public utility. 74 Del. Laws ch.

¹The enactment continued, in the context of wastewater systems, exemptions from Commission oversight systems owned or operated by municipalities and specific water and sewer districts. 74 Del. Laws ch. 317 §§ 3, 5 (2004) (amending 26 Del. C. § 202(b)). The new law also exempted from Commission oversight wastewater public utilities serving fewer than fifty customers in the aggregate. 74 Del. Laws ch. 317 § 4 (2004), adding 26 Del. C. § 202(h).

317 § 6, adding 26 Del. C. § 203D. Under the statute, specifically 26 Del. C. § 203D(d)(2), the Commission shall grant a CPCN to an applicant if it has submitted a petition requesting wastewater services signed by a majority of the landowners in the proposed service area, as well as the proof that all of the landowners in the proposed service area were notified of the application. Under 26 Del. C. § 203D(e), the Commission may deny a request for a CPCN if the applicant is currently subject to a Commission finding or, if the Commission finds, that the applicant is unable or unwilling to provide safe, adequate, and reliable service to existing customers.

3. Tidewater Environmental Services, Inc. ("TESI") is a public utility offering wastewater services, and is subject to the regulatory oversight of this Commission². On June 24, 2005, TESI filed an application with the Commission requesting a CPCN to provide wastewater services to five parcels of land located between Beaver Dam and Robinsville Roads (identified by the applicant as the Marine Farm project), west of the Town of Rehoboth Beach, Sussex County, Delaware ("Proposed Service Area"), and more specifically identified by the Sussex County tax map parcels numbers 334-11.00-3.01, 334-11.00-5.00, 334-11.00-8.00, 334-11.00-12.00, and 334-11.00-43.01.

4. As required by 26 Del. C. § 203D(d)(2), and Commission Regulations, TESI included in its application: (a) petitions requesting wastewater services signed by a majority of the landowners (in this case, all of the landowners) in the Proposed Service Area;

²TESI was granted its first CPCN on August 23, 2005 by PSC Order No. 6703, and was deemed to possess the financial, operational and managerial capability to operate as a wastewater utility.

and (b) evidence, in the form of a United States Postal Service certified mail receipt, showing that all of the landowners in the Proposed Service Area were sent notice of the Application. Also included were Sussex County tax maps showing the location of the parcels in the Proposed Service Area.

5. TESI is a newly regulated wastewater utility and, to the best of the Commission's knowledge, is not presently providing wastewater services to any customers. Thus, there is no determination to be made as to whether or not the utility is unwilling or unable to provide safe, adequate, and reliable service to existing customers. Commission Staff did notify the Division of Water Resources of the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control ("DNREC"), the Delaware Office of State Planning ("OSP"), as well as the Sussex County Engineering Department. There were no comments from any of these agencies indicating an objection to the Commission issuing a CPCN to TESI for this project.

7. Consequently, consistent with the statutory requirement, the Commission shall grant a CPCN to TESI to provide wastewater public utility services within the Proposed Service Area.

Now, therefore, **IT IS ORDERED:**

1. That, pursuant to the provisions of 26 Del. C. § 203D(d)(2), a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity is granted to Tidewater Environmental Services, Inc., to provide wastewater public utility services to five parcels of land located between Beaver Dam and Robinsville Roads, west of the Town of Rehoboth Beach, Sussex County, Delaware, and more specifically identified by

the Sussex County tax map parcels numbers 334-11.00-3.01, 334-11.00-5.00, 334-11.00-8.00, 334-11.00-12.00, and 334-11.00-43.01.

2. That Tidewater Environmental Services, Inc., shall comply with any and all federal, state, county, and local statutes, ordinances, orders, regulations, rules, and permit conditions that are applicable, or may become applicable, to any matter involving water utility services provided to the service territory granted by this Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity.

3. That the Commission reserves the jurisdiction and authority to enter such further Orders in this matter as may be deemed necessary or proper.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

/s/ Arnetta McRae
Chair

Vice Chair

/s/ Joann T. Conaway
Commissioner

/s/ Jaymes B. Lester
Commissioner

/s/ Dallas Winslow
Commissioner

ATTEST:

/s/ Norma J. Sherwood
Acting Secretary