

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF)	
ARTESIAN WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT, INC.,)	
FOR A CERTIFICATE OF PUBLIC)	
CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY TO PROVIDE)	PSC DOCKET NO. 09-WW-003
WASTEWATER SERVICES PURSUANT TO 26)	("SUSSEX WASTEWATER 0409")
DEL. C. § 203D (FILED JUNE 23, 2009))	
)	
)	

ORDER NO. 7651

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

This 22nd day of September, 2009, the Commission determines and Orders the following:

1. This Commission exercises regulatory oversight over non-governmental wastewater public utilities that serve more than fifty customers. See 26 Del. C. § 102(6) (2006 Supp.). That regulatory oversight includes the authority to grant Certificates of Public Convenience and Necessity ("CPCN") to enable an entity to begin the business of a wastewater public utility or to permit an existing wastewater public utility to extend its system and operations. See 26 Del. C. § 203D (2006 Supp.), as now further amended by 76 Del. Laws ch. 57 (June 28, 2007) and 76 Del. Laws ch. 162 (July 18, 2007). Under such statutory regime, and specifically 26 Del. C. § 203D(d)(2), a wastewater utility may obtain a CPCN for a new service territory if it submits petitions requesting the utility's wastewater services executed by the landowners of each parcel or parcels to be encompassed within such new service area.

2. In 2005, by PSC Order No. 6573 (Feb. 22, 2005), the Commission adopted final *Regulations Concerning the Jurisdiction of the Public Service Commission to Grant and Revoke Certificates of Public Convenience and Necessity to Provide Wastewater Services* ("Regulations"). Those Regulations implement the CPCN regime for public wastewater utilities.

3. Artesian Wastewater Management, Inc. ("Artesian") is a public utility offering wastewater services, and is subject to the regulatory oversight of this Commission. On June 23, 2009, Artesian filed an application with the Commission requesting a CPCN to provide its wastewater services to 22 parcels of land distributed north of Georgetown to east of Milton, Sussex County, Delaware ("Proposed Service Area").

4. As required by 26 Del. C. § 203D(d)(2) and the Commission Regulations, Artesian included in its application: (a) petitions requesting wastewater service signed by the owners of the parcels of land comprising the Proposed Service Area; and (b) evidence, in the form of signed United States Postal Service certified mail receipts, showing that all of the landowners were sent notice of Artesian's Application.¹ Sussex County Tax Maps showing the location of the Proposed Service Area was also included with the Application.

5. Pursuant to Commission Regulations, Commission Staff requested written comment from the Delaware Department of Natural

¹Prior to June 28, 2007, § 203D(d)(2) required the utility to provide notice to affected landowners of its application for a wastewater CPCN. That statutory requirement of notice was not carried forward in the June and July, 2007 amendments to § 203D(d)(2); however, Commission Regulations continue to require notice to affected landowners.

Resources and Environmental Control ("DNREC") as to whether there are any outstanding issues with that agency that would indicate that Artesian has been unwilling or unable to provide safe, adequate, and reliable wastewater services to its existing customers.² In its reply, DNREC reported that it had no objection to the Commission granting the requested CPCN to provide wastewater treatment and disposal services to the Proposed Service Area.

6. The Commission Staff has reviewed the Application and found no errors or omissions. Staff reports to the Commission in its September 3, 2009 memorandum that Artesian Application meets all requirements for the granting of a CPCN under 26 *Del. C.* § 203D and the Commission's Regulations and recommends approval of the Application.

7. For these reasons, the Commission finds that Artesian has met the requirements for the granting of a CPCN and, therefore, the Commission shall approve the Application as filed in PSC Docket No. 09-WW-003 on June 23, 2009.

²Under the Commission's Regulations, the utility was required to submit a copy of its application to DNREC; the Office of State Planning ("OSP"); and "a) any county within whose boundaries the proposed service territory would be located; and b) any municipality, town or local authority: i) whose boundaries are adjacent to the proposed service territory; or ii) within whose boundaries or existing wastewater service territory the proposed service territory would be located." Here, Staff solicited comments from DNREC and, by copy, also gave both the OSP and the Sussex County Engineering Department ("the County") the opportunity to offer their views. In this case, OSP indicated that Sussex County Tax Map Parcel Number 235-9.00-23.00 has been reviewed as PLUS 2007-02-05 (Woodfield Preserve) and they object to the development of this property. The remaining parcel in the Proposed Service area is located in an Investment Level 4 Area, according to the "Strategies for State Policies and Spending," where new development activities and suburban development are not supported. The County expressed their concern with Artesian's ability to serve scattered parcels. Further, they state that if there are no immediate plans or schedule to provide service, they question why a CPCN should be granted at this time.

**NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED BY THE AFFIRMATIVE
VOTE OF NOT FEWER THAN THREE COMMISSIONERS:**

1. That, pursuant to the provisions of 26 Del. C. § 203D(d)(2), a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity is granted to Artesian Wastewater Management, Inc. to provide wastewater public utility services to the area more specifically identified by the Sussex County Tax Map Parcel Numbers shown in "Exhibit A" of this Order.

2. That Artesian Wastewater Management, 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 wastewater 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

/s/ Joann T. Conaway
Commissioner

/s/ Jaymes B. Lester
Commissioner

/s/ Dallas Winslow
Commissioner

PSC Docket No. 09-WW-003, Order No. 7651 (Con't)

/s/ Jeffrey J. Clark
Commissioner

ATTEST:

/s/ Katie Rochester
Acting Secretary

E X H I B I T "A"

APPROVED SERVICE AREA
PARCELS WITHIN CERTIFICATE OF
PUBLIC CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY

ARTESIAN WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT, INC.

PSC DOCKET NO. 09-WW-003

SUSSEX COUNTY TAX MAP PARCEL NUMBERS

135-06.00-38.01	235-24.00-05.02	235-15.00-05.00
235-06.00-28.00	235-24.00-06.00	235-19.00-20.00
235-06.00-28.02	135-10.00-51.02	235-19.00-37.00
235-18.00-12.00	234-10.00-103.00	235-24.00-03.00
235-19.00-35.00	235-06.00-16.16	235-25.00-76.00
235-24.00-05.00	235-08.00-26.03	235-25.00-76.01
235-24.00-05.01	235-08.00-26.05	235-27.00-13.00
	235-09.00-23.00	