

**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) PSC DOCKET NO. 05-WW-010
WASTEWATER SERVICES TO THE COMMUNITY) ("CEDAR VILLAGE")
OF "CEDAR VILLAGE" LOCATED SOUTH OF)
THE CITY OF MILFORD, SUSSEX COUNTY,)
DELAWARE (FILED JUNE 6, 2005))

ORDER NO. 6731

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

This 11TH day of October, 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 ("CPCNs") 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. 317 § 6, adding 26 Del. C. § 203D. Under the statute,

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).

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 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. On February 22, 2005, by PSC Order No. 6573, 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") which govern the process that non-governmental wastewater utilities serving, or planning to serve, fifty or more customers (in the aggregate) apply for and are granted a CPCN.

4. Tidewater Environmental Services, Inc. ("TESI") is a public utility offering wastewater services, and is subject to the regulatory oversight of this Commission.² On June 6, 2005, TESI filed an application with the Commission requesting a CPCN to provide wastewater services to an existing 146 unit mobile home community named "Cedar Village,"³ located south of the Town of Milford, Sussex

²TESI was granted its first CPCN on August 9, 2005 by PSC Order No. 6703, and is deemed to possess the financial, operational, and managerial capability to operate as a wastewater utility.

³Generally, when one utility acquires the system or service territory of another utility, the abandoning utility must petition the Commission. In this case, the current operator of the wastewater system serving the community did

County, Delaware, and more specifically identified by the Sussex County tax parcels numbers: 230-13.00-140.00, 230-13.00-140.01, 230-13.00-140.02, 230-13.00-141.00, 230-13.00-145.00, 230-13.00-146.01.

5. As required by 26 Del. C. § 203D(d)(2), and Commission Regulations, TESI included in its Application: (a) a petition requesting wastewater services signed by the owner of all six parcels of land; and (b) evidence in the form of a United States Postal Service certified mail receipt, showing that the landowner was sent notice of the Application. Also included with the Application was a Sussex County tax map showing the location of the community.

6. 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 these parcels of land.⁴

not charge additional fees for those services, and is not considered a public utility subject to the regulatory oversight of the Commission; therefore, no such petition to abandon service is required.

⁴DNREC also offered a brief synopsis of the regulatory history of the site, and indicated that the "facility operates well and has had minimal violations in recent years."

7. Consequently, consistent with the statutory requirement, the Commission shall grant a CPCN to TESI to provide wastewater public utility services to the community of Cedar Village.

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 the existing 146 unit mobile home community named "Cedar Village," located south of the Town of Milford, Sussex County, Delaware, and more specifically identified by the Sussex County tax parcels numbers: 230-13.00-140.00, 230-13.00-140.01, 230-13.00-140.02, 230-13.00-141.00, 230-13.00-145.00, 230-13.00-146.01.

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

PSC Docket No. 05-WW-010, Order No. 6731 Cont'd.

Vice Chair

/s/ Joann T. Conaway
Commissioner

/s/ Jaymes B. Lester
Commissioner

/s/ Dallas Winslow
Commissioner

ATTEST:

/s/ Norma J. Sherwood
Acting Secretary