

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY  
BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of:

APPLICATION OF GRANT COUNTY SANITARY	)	
SEWER DISTRICT PURSUANT TO 807 KAR 5:071,	)	CASE NO.
§7(4) FOR DEVIATION FROM REQUIRED	)	2018-00097
INSPECTION PROCEDURES AND APPROVAL OF	)	
PROPOSED INSPECTION PROCEDURES	)	

ORDER

On March 9, 2018, Grant County Sanitary Sewer District (“Grant County”) filed an Application with the Commission requesting approval of its proposed procedures for the inspection of its sewage collection and treatment operations that will permit inspections of certain mechanical equipment and facilities on a nondaily basis. There are no intervenors in this matter and the case now stands submitted to the Commission for a decision.

807 KAR 5:071, Section 7(4) provides in part, “[u]nless otherwise authorized in writing by the commission, the sewage utility shall . . . make inspections of all mechanical equipment on a daily basis.” Grant County does not deny that it is not in compliance with this requirement and that it has not received authorization from the Commission to inspect the grinder/pump stations on a different schedule than the rest of its equipment.<sup>1</sup>

Grant County asserts that it lacks the personnel to conduct daily inspections of the 70 residential grinder/pump stations in use, as required by the regulations.<sup>2</sup> Grant County

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<sup>1</sup> Application, paragraph 16.

<sup>2</sup> *Id.* at paragraph 18(a).

further states that requiring daily inspections would necessitate Grant County to hire an additional 2.25 full-time employees and the purchase of additional vehicles. The district estimates that this would cost the water district \$160,000 in annual personnel expenses, as well as additional annual fuel costs and additional annual costs for vehicle insurance.<sup>3</sup>

In its application, Grant County provided information regarding the safety features of the grinder/pump stations and the alerts that are in place in the event of a failure of a grinder/pump station. Each grinder/pump station is designed to prevent any sewer backup into a customer's residence. In the event of an overflow, the grinder pumps will retain any solid waste in a holding tank until repairs and service can be completed. There are also sewer relief valves on the sewer cleanout of each grinder pump.<sup>4</sup> Additionally, the grinders/pump are equipped with audio and visual alarms that will activate when a high water level is reached.<sup>5</sup> These alarms can be seen and heard from a considerable distance so the property owner, or adjoining property owner can notify either Grant County or local law enforcement.

807 KAR 5:071, Section 7(4) does provide that the Commission may authorize a different inspection schedule than the one set out in the regulation. Grant County has proposed an annual inspection schedule.

Based upon a review of the evidence and being otherwise sufficiently advised, the Commission finds that an alternative inspection schedule, requiring annual inspection of

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<sup>3</sup> *Id.*

<sup>4</sup> *Id.* at paragraph 23.

<sup>5</sup> *Id.*

grinder/pump stations that ensures that, “the commission’s safety requirements are being met,” as required in 807 KAR 5:006, Section 26(8), is warranted.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that:

1. Grant County’s Application requesting an alternative inspection schedule for its grinder/pump stations pursuant to 807 KAR 5:071, Section 7(4) is approved.
2. Grant County’s residential grinder/pump stations shall be inspected annually.

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By the Commission

ENTERED  
JUN 12 2018  
KENTUCKY PUBLIC  
SERVICE COMMISSION

ATTEST:

1377  
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