

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

IN THE MATTER OF:

REQUEST OF WHITLEY COUNTY WATER)
DISTRICT #1 FOR VARIANCE PER 807 KAR) CASE NO. 2017-00142
5:066, Section 10(2)(A) - MINIMUM PIPE SIZE)

ORDER

On March 21, 2017, Whitley County Water District #1 (“WCWD”) filed an application requesting a variance from 807 KAR 5:066, Section 10(2)(a), which regulates minimum pipe sizes. WCWD is proposing to use a 2-inch line for a distance of approximately 475 feet. This exceeds the Commission’s limit of 250 feet maximum length for a 2-inch non-circulating pipe.¹

Commission Staff issued, and WCWD responded to, one round of discovery. There are no intervenors in this matter, and the case now stands submitted for a decision.

WCWD asserts that a pipe larger than 2 inches is not needed for three reasons: First, WCWD does not believe there will ever be more than three customers on the line, and therefore the operating pressure will be more than enough to satisfy peak demand. Second, there will probably be only one customer on the line initially, and the smaller pipe will provide fresher water than a larger pipe. Finally, the cost of a 2-inch pipe is cheaper than a 3-inch pipe and so the deviation, if granted, would result in a benefit to customers in the form of reduced costs.²

¹ 807 KAR 5:066, Section 10 (2)(a).

² Application at (unnumbered) page 1.

In its response to Staff's First Request for information, WCWD stated that the Kentucky Division of Water ("DOW") has approved WCWD's plans and specifications; WCWD further attached a copy of the DOW letter granting such approval.³ Commission Staff has contacted the DOW engineering staff responsible for the approval and has confirmed its position that the length of pipe beyond the Commission's 250-foot maximum would not cause an issue with minimum service line pressure in this instance. The DOW does not have a line-length standard for projects of this type; however, commensurate with Commission's regulations, service lines must be able to maintain a minimum pressure of 30 psig.

807 KAR 5:066, Section 18, provides that the Commission may grant a deviation from the regulations for good cause shown. Based on the evidence of the record and being otherwise sufficiently advised, the Commission finds that WCWD should be allowed to deviate from the requirements of 807 KAR 5:066, Section 10(2)(a), to install approximately 475 feet of 2-inch pipe in the location designated in its request filed April 10, 2017.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that:

1. WCWD's request for a deviation is granted.
2. WCWD shall be allowed to deviate from 807 KAR 5:066, Section 10(2)(a), to allow it to install approximately 475 feet of 2-inch pipe as part of the Blackhawk Road and Clyde Strunk Road Water Line Extensions.

³ Response to Staff's First Request for Information (filed Sept. 18, 2017) at Item 1.a., and 1.b.

By the Commission



ATTEST:


Executive Director

Case No. 2017-00142

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