

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of:

GARRISON-QUINCY-KY-O-HEIGHTS WATER)	
DISTRICT REQUEST FOR A DEVIATION FROM)	CASE NO.
THE DAILY INSPECTION OF SEWER GRINDING)	2017-00201
PUMP STATIONS)	

ORDER

On May 5, 2017, Garrison-Quincy-KY-O-Heights Water District (“GQWD”) filed an Application with the Commission titled, “Third written request for a deviation for the daily inspection of sewer grinding pump stations...”¹ 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 non-daily basis.

Commission Staff issued a request for information on September 7, 2017. The response was due 14 days from the date of the request.² On September 29, 2017, GQWD filed a motion for extension of time, citing confusion as to the format required for the response.³ GQWD filed a response to Commission Staff’s First Request for Information at the same time as the motion. 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

¹ The Application is presented as a deviation request but is more properly a request for written authorization by the Commission of an alternative inspection schedule as authorized in 807 KAR 5:071, Section 7(4) and will be treated as such.

² Commission Staff’s First Request for Information to Garrison-Quincy-KY-O Heights Water District.

³ Motion for Extension of Time, at 1.

equipment on a daily basis.” GQWD 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.⁴

GQWD asserts that it lacks the personnel to conduct daily inspections of the grinder/pump stations, as required by the regulations. GQWD currently has 310 residential grinder/pump stations, and one duplex grinder/pump station in use.⁵ GQWD asserts that requiring daily inspections would necessitate GQWD hiring an additional eight full-time employees and purchasing an additional eight vehicles. The district estimates that this would cost the water district \$297,024 in salary expenses annually, \$41,600 in annual fuel costs, and \$6,000 annually in vehicle insurance, as well as a one-time expense of \$200,000 to purchase the vehicles.⁶

GQWD has provided information to the Commission 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 equipped with an in-line check valve assembly, as well as a collection or storage tank for holding wastewater, and a sewer relief valve. They are designed to bypass water to the area surrounding the station in the event of an overflow.⁷

When a high water level is reached in the storage tank, a red alarm light is activated. An audio alarm also sounds. These alarms can be seen and heard from a

⁴ *Id.*

⁵ Answer to Commission Staff’s First Request for Information (“Staff’s First Request”), Item 6(c)(6).

⁶ Application at 1.

⁷ Staff’s First Request, Item 1-2.

considerable distance so the property owner, adjoining property owner, or local law enforcement will notify GQWD about the alarm.⁸

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. GQWD has not proposed a specific alternative inspection schedule.

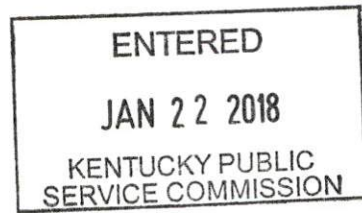
Based upon a review of the evidence and being otherwise sufficiently advised, the Commission finds that an alternative inspection schedule, requiring annual inspection of grinder/pump stations that ensures that, “the commission’s safety requirements are being met,” as required in 807 KAR 5:006, Section 26(8), is warranted.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that:

1. GQWD’s motion for extension of time is granted and its Answer to Commission Staff’s First Request for Information is accepted for filing as of September 29, 2017.
2. GQWD’s Application requesting an alternative inspection schedule for its grinder/pump stations pursuant to 807 KAR 5:071, Section 7(4) is approved.
3. Simplex grinder/pump stations shall be inspected annually.

⁸ *Id.* at Item 6(c)(2).

By the Commission



ATTEST:


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