

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY  
BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of:

ELECTRONIC APPLICATION OF WOOD CREEK )  
WATER DISTRICT PURSUANT TO 807 KAR ) CASE NO.  
5:071, SECTION 7(4) FOR APPROVAL OF ) 2017-00307  
PROPOSED INSPECTION PROCEDURES )

ORDER

On August 15, 2017, Wood Creek Water District (“WCWD”) filed an Application pursuant to 807 KAR 5:071, Section 7(4), requesting approval of its proposed procedures for the inspection of its sewage collection and treatment operations to permit inspections of certain mechanical equipment and facilities on a non-daily basis.

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

WCWD currently has 1,289 active simplex grinder/pump stations that pump wastewater from the customer’s residence or business to WCWD’s main lift stations.<sup>1</sup> The water district does not presently have any employees dedicated to its wastewater division. At this time, WCWD inspects its main lift stations weekly and grinder stations annually.

WCWD does not deny that the grinder/pump stations are mechanical equipment under 807 KAR 5:071, Section 7(4), which provides in part that, “[u]nless otherwise

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<sup>1</sup> Application at 4.

authorized in writing by the commission, the sewage utility shall .... make inspections of all mechanical equipment on a daily basis.”<sup>2</sup> WCWD 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 mechanical equipment.<sup>3</sup>

WCWD asserts in its application that it lacks the personnel to conduct daily inspections of the grinder/pump stations, as required by the regulations. It estimates that performing daily inspections of all grinder/pump stations would require hiring 27 additional employees at an estimated yearly cost of \$1,295,892. There would also be a cost of \$675,000 to provide these new employees with vehicles.<sup>4</sup>

WCWD 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 a collection or storage tank for holding wastewater.<sup>5</sup> They are designed to bypass water to the area surrounding the station in the event of an overflow.<sup>6</sup> If a grinder/pump station fails, an audible and visual alarm will be activated when high water levels are reached in the storage tank.<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> *Id.* at 5.

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

<sup>4</sup> *Id.* at 6.

<sup>5</sup> Response of Wood Creek Water District to Commission Staff’s First Request for Information, (“Staff’s First Request”), Item 2.b.

<sup>6</sup> *Id.* Item 2.d.

<sup>7</sup> *Id.* Item 3.

807 KAR 5:071, Section 7(4), provides that the Commission may authorize a different inspection schedule than the one set out in the regulation. WCWD is proposing an alternative inspection schedule of once annually for its simplex grinder/pump stations.<sup>8</sup>

Based upon a review of the evidence and being otherwise sufficiently advised, the Commission finds that WCWD has presented an alternative inspection schedule 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).

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that:

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

By the Commission



ATTEST:

  
Executive Director

<sup>8</sup> Application at 7.

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