

From: Melnykovych, Andrew (PSC)
To: "gball"
Subject: your comments in case 2016-00142 - Martin County Water District
Date: Friday, September 07, 2018 2:26:00 PM

Dear Mr. Ball:

Thank you for your comments on the Kentucky Public Service Commission's investigation of the operating capacity of the Martin County Water District

Your comments in the above-referenced matter have been received and will be placed into the case file for the Commission's consideration.

As you noted, the case number in this matter is 2016-00142. It would be helpful if you would please refer to it in any further correspondence.

The documents in this case are available at http://psc.ky.gov/PSC_WebNet/ViewCaseFilings.aspx?case=2016-00142.

Thank you for your interest in this matter.

Andrew Melnykovych

Director of Communications
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Andrew.Melnykovych@ky.gov

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By Kentucky PSC at 2:30 pm, Sep 07, 2018

From: gball [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 07, 2018 12:12 PM
To: PSC - Public Information Officer <PSC.Info@ky.gov>
Subject: Comment on Case No. 2016-00142 from Gary Ball

I just came from Crum Reservoir this morning. It's the lowest level that many have ever seen it. At the time I visited and took photos, I ran into interim general manager Greg Scott. He was in a truck and I had to back up in a wide spot to let him by. He asked me if I needed to see him. I said yes. My purpose being there is that I was going to check the level of the reservoir from the day before. They were supposed to have a pump in the Tug River to replenish the reservoir. It was reported as already set up. I had checked the evening before and it was not pumping, despite what was reported.

What I found this morning was very disturbing. They were busy installing a pump in the reservoir, the pump that feeds the gravity fed line to the treatment plant. Scott said the pump that had just been installed a few days prior had failed around 3 a.m.

this (Friday) morning. You had county employees working with a dozer and back-hoe creating a new bench for the replacement pump to sit on due to the reservoir sinking to a very low point. Scott was very forthcoming about the situation, assuring me they were on top of it. The pump on the Tug River, he said, was pumping and that instead of his previous testimony before the PSC that it could put 6 million gallons of raw water into the reservoir, could only put 4 million gallons. What is pretty clear -- and I didn't press him on this point -- is that if this pump failed at 3 a.m. and it was around 10 a.m. when we talked, that meant the treatment plant had no raw water to treat for the last 7 hours! Since I live in an area that could get emergency water from Kermit, W.Va., I asked if it were true that the line in the river from Kermit to Wolf Creek had blown into. He said it had burst in the river. (I was told back in the winter crisis that getting water from Kermit was "off the table" by operations manager John Mills, a claim that proved to be false.

As I'm writing this, they're installing another pump in the reservoir. That treatment plant hasn't had raw water for at least seven hours. That means all the water we have is in the system's storage tanks scattered across the county. Since this pump failed at 3 a.m. I assume all tanks were filled overnight. It's now a little past noon, and I have to wonder if they've made plans to contact Prestonsburg City Utilities and Mountain Water in Pike County to supply emergency water. I guess we will soon know!

From: Melnykovych, Andrew (PSC)
To: "gball"
Subject: your comments in case 2016-00142 - Martin County Water District
Date: Friday, September 07, 2018 2:27:00 PM

Dear Mr. Ball:

Thank you for your comments on the Kentucky Public Service Commission's investigation of the operating capacity of the Martin County Water District

Your comments in the above-referenced matter have been received and will be placed into the case file for the Commission's consideration.

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The documents in this case are available at http://psc.ky.gov/PSC_WebNet/ViewCaseFilings.aspx?case=2016-00142.

Thank you for your interest in this matter.

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From: gball [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, August 02, 2018 3:29 PM
To: PSC - Public Information Officer <PSC.Info@ky.gov>
Subject: COMMENT ON PSC CASE NO.2016-00142

My name is Gary Ball. I want to comment on Case No.2016-00142. Since this case was opened in April 2016 based partly on my complaint and request that the PSC redraw district boundaries to allow adjacent water utilities to supply service to customers in Martin County -- a request that was dismissed because the PSC didn't have the authority to do so -- may I offer another suggested remedy.

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First, this case has gone on now for over two years. Little has been accomplished. And it's not for the lack of trying on the PSC's part, it's just the nature of dealing with the Martin County Water District. Your own records of past orders reveal this. To me, it's a continual struggle and it appears the water district is just biding its time hoping to wear everyone out to the point where the commission will throw its hands up and allow things to go back to where they were.

That can't happen. The only remedy is either abolishing the water district altogether and I realize that can't be done because people in Martin County need water. The district knows abolishing it will not happen. However, the next best thing is a forced merger. That would solve the problem. I hear some argue that a merger means we'll have no voice as far as rates go or questions of water quality. My comeback to that is, how much of a voice do we have now? I could care less who serves on a water district board -- whether we in Martin County will be represented on a board. As chairman Mike Schmitt put it, we don't care who supplies the water. ALL WE WANT IS CLEAN WATER!!! A forced merger, given everything that has happened in the last two years of this ongoing investigation, appears to be the only viable solution to our problem.

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