

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of:

APPLICATION OF HARDIN COUNTY WATER)
DISTRICT NO. 1 FOR A DEVIATION FROM 807) CASE NO.
KAR 5:071, SECTION 7(4)) 2018-00166

ORDER

On May 29, 2018, Hardin County Water District No. 1 (Hardin District No. 1) 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.

Hardin District No. 1 responded to two rounds of discovery in this matter. There are no intervenors in this matter. On November 6, 2018, Hardin District No. 1 requested an extension of time up to and including December 3, 2018, in which to file its response to Staff's Second Request for Information. On November 30, 2018, Hardin District No. 1 filed its response to Commission Staff's Second Request for Information. The case now stands submitted to the Commission for a decision.

Hardin District No. 1 currently has two independent treatment plants and collection systems, the Fort Knox System and the Radcliffe System.¹ The Fort Knox system consists of one wastewater treatment plant and a collection system with 2,015 manholes and 38 lift stations.² Three of these lift stations are primary lift stations, which have a

¹ Application at 2.

² *Id.*

single pump capacity greater than or equal to 500 gpm and are inspected daily. The remainder of the lift stations are secondary with a single pump capacity of less than 500 gpm and are checked weekly.³ Of the 38 lift stations in the Fort Knox System, 13, including the 3 primary lift stations are equipped with Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA), which allows the plant operator to monitor the systems continuously.⁴

The Radcliffe System consists of 1 wastewater treatment plant, 2,952 manholes, and 49 lift stations.⁵ Six of these lift stations are primary lift stations, which are inspected daily. The remainder of the lift stations are secondary, which are currently inspected weekly.⁶ Of the 49 lift stations, 14, including the primary lift stations, are equipped with SCADA.⁷ The Radcliffe system has also obtained a fully funded grant to update SCADA on the currently equipped stations and add a further 20 stations for a total of 34 SCADA equipped stations.⁸

Hardin District No. 1 does not deny that the lift stations are mechanical equipment under 807 KAR 5:071, Section 7(4), which provides in part that “[u]nless otherwise authorized in writing by the commission, the sewage utility shall . . . make inspections of all mechanical equipment on a daily basis.” Hardin District No. 1 does not deny that it does not comply with this requirement and that it has not received authorization from the

³ Hardin County Water District No. 1 Response to Commission Staff’s Second Request for Information at Item 2 and Item 3.

⁴ Application at 3.

⁵ Application at 2.

⁶ Response to Staff’s second request for Information at item 2 and Item 3.

⁷ Application at 3.

⁸ Hardin County Water District No. 1 Response to Commission Staff’s First Request for Information at Item 4.

Commission to inspect the grinder/pump stations on a different schedule than the rest of its mechanical equipment.⁹

Hardin District No. 1 asserts in its application that it lacks the personnel to conduct daily inspections of the lift stations, as required by the regulations. It estimates that performing daily inspections of all lift stations would require hiring four additional employees, two for each system at an estimated yearly cost of \$277,460.00. There would also be a cost of \$46,000 to provide these new employees with vehicles. Additionally, fuel, maintenance, and insurance costs for these vehicles are estimated to be \$11,507 annually.¹⁰

Hardin District No. 1 has provided information to the Commission regarding the SCADA remote monitoring system.¹¹ Hardin District No. 1 also asserts that all lift stations are equipped with exterior alarm lights and a posted sign with Hardin District No. 1's contact information.¹²

Section 7(4) of 807 KAR 5:071 provides that the Commission may authorize a different inspection schedule than the one set out in the regulation. Hardin District No. 1 is proposing an alternative inspection schedule of once monthly for all of its lift stations.¹³

Based upon a review of the evidence and being otherwise sufficiently advised, the Commission finds that Hardin District No. 1 has not presented an alternative inspection schedule of lift stations that ensures that, "the commission's safety requirements are

⁹ *Id.* at Item 1.

¹⁰ Application at 2–3.

¹¹ Response to Staff's Second Request for Information, Item 1.

¹² Application at 4.

¹³ Application at 4.

being met,” as required in 807 KAR 5:006, Section 26(8). However, the Commission also finds that an alternative schedule providing for inspection of primary lift stations weekly and secondary lift stations monthly would fulfill the requirements of 807 KAR 5:006, Section 26(8).

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that:

1. Hardin District No. 1's application proposing an alternative inspection schedule for all its lift stations pursuant to 807 KAR 5:071, Section 7(4), of once every month is denied.
2. Hardin District No. 1 is granted a deviation allowing for inspection of primary lift stations on a weekly schedule and secondary lift stations on a monthly schedule.
3. Hardin District No. 1's motion for an extension of time to file its response to Commission Staff's Second Request for Information up to and including December 3, 2018, is granted and its Response is accepted as timely filed November 30, 2018.
4. This case is closed and removed from the Commission's docket.

By the Commission

ENTERED
MAR 08 2019
KENTUCKY PUBLIC
SERVICE COMMISSION

ATTEST:


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