



Franklin County Fiscal Court

248 River Valley Road
Frankfort, KY 40601

Sherry Sebastian
1st District Magistrate

February 4, 2025

Public Service Commission
211 Sower Boulevard
Frankfort, Kentucky 40601

RE: Case No. 2024-00202
Public Comment

RECEIVED

FEB 06 2025

PUBLIC SERVICE
COMMISSION

Dear Director Bridwell:

This public comment letter is in support of Farmdale Water District (FWD) remaining an independent water district. Since 1961, the FWD has been serving rural, residential and commercial customers in the south western portion of Franklin County and portions of Anderson and Shelby Counties. At present, FWD has approximately 2,800 customers.

First and foremost, I am a FWD residential customer and have been since 1992. I am also a local elected official and represent constituents in the unincorporated area of Franklin County that is serviced by FWD. Therefore, I have a significant interest in FWD and its services. The three FWD Board of Commissioners each are FWD residential customers. Accordingly, retaining local responsibility to serve neighbors is of vital importance as they are closer than any other water provider, in the midst of customers they serve and know well their needs. FWD has steadily reduced water loss from 2023 to present. For CY 2023, FWD had water loss exceeding 40% for 10 out of 12 months. Water loss improved in 2024, hitting a low of 8.89% in August and remaining below 15% for September and October. Due to lines being hit by a contractor while replacing asbestos concrete (AC) pipe, water loss increased in November and December but remained well below 2023 levels. FWD has made system improvements with new water lines. FWD has upgraded its equipment. FWD has been granted access to its surcharge account so that it may purchase and install new water meters. FWD has hired more frontline, professional and technically proficient staff. It is in that regard that I urge the Commission to take a fresh look at these advancements and the FWD Board of Commissioners' earnest efforts to remedy issues it inherited from previous FWD leadership.

Having local and direct decision making brings increased focus to issues in the FWD service area. The current FWD Board of Commissioners has worked diligently to plan and initiate District wide improvements including the installation of new water lines, upgraded equipment, increased efficiency and the hiring of more professional and technically skilled staff. This demonstrates a direct departure and stark contrast from previous Board of Commissioners who chose insular operations and status quo over system enhancements and customer service.



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FWD recently signed a Mutual Aid Agreement and Assistance Agreement with the Frankfort Plant Board (FPB). The Agreements between FWD and FPB exemplify an awareness of the value in collaboration with a **local partner** that can and has shored up technical staffing and resource limitations, when needed. The onus for reasonable and adequate water services remains squarely with FWD, where it rightfully belongs. The current FWD Board of Commissioners is committed to serving its customers and reducing District wide water loss. To that end, great strides have been made with water loss being under 15% for three consecutive months in 2024 after having been well over 40% in 2023.

The FWD and FPB have initiated an Assistance Agreement of their own accord, but more importantly, they have a cooperative relationship based on professionalism and trust. The FWD and FPB should be allowed to work together for the full five-year period of the Assistance Agreement. Any decision by the Public Service Commission to force a merger between FWD and another water district while this Assistance Agreement is in place and working well may be inadvisable and not beneficial for the FWD customers. I ask the PSC to allow the Assistance Agreement to proceed completely, enabling FWD to continue its role as the water utility for its approximately 2,800 customers, permitting the FWD and FPB collaboration to achieve success and service to the customers to continue uninterrupted. Thank you.

Best Regards –


Sherry G. Sebastian