

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the matter of:

ELECTRONIC BIG SANDY WATER DISTRICT'S	)	CASE NO.
UNACCOUNTED-FOR WATER LOSS REDUCTION	)	2022-00301
PLAN, SURCHARGE MONITORING	)	

**RESPONSE ON PROGRESS AND EXPENDITURES OF WATER LOSS DETECTION AND REPAIR
PROGRAM**

Big Sandy Water District ("the District") received an order on September 13, 2022 for the approval of a monthly surcharge of \$6.42 to be billed to its customers every month for 60 months to fund its unaccounted-for water loss reduction efforts. The District began billing its customer's on November 1, 2022.

Since the surcharge has been issued, the following expenditures have been made:

April 2023 - Emergency Creek Crossing Reimbursement \$116,668.35

June 2023 – Purchase of a One Ton Truck \$66,558.00

November 2023 – Purchase of Digital Listening Device \$3,227.00

June 2024 – Purchase of 500 Mach 10 meters \$164,500.00

August 2024 – Purchase of 500 Mach 10 Meters \$164,500.00

September 2025 – Purchase of Hydro Excavator \$49,675.00

Total Amount of Expenditures - \$565,128.35

As of September 30, 2025 the Surcharge account balance was \$568,029.71.

In January of 2025, the District requested an amendment to its Infrastructure Improvement Plan. This plan includes purchasing a Hydro Excavator and additional zone meters, water main replacements on Bear Creek Road and Friendship Road, as well as reimbursement of engineering fees for the cost estimates given by the District's engineer. In its order, the Public Service Commission granted authorization to the District to move forward with this new Infrastructure Improvement Plan covering all the requests made. The future expenditures of the Surcharge proceeds are as follows:

Purchase of 10 additional Zone Meters – It's essential for the District to purchase additional zone meters to provide the real time flow information that can be used to pinpoint areas of loss, focus repair efforts, and prioritize future projects. The District currently has 16 zone meters or DMA's (District Metering Areas). The flow within a DMA is more effectively monitored and water leaks are quickly detected, if a DMA contains a smaller number of meters. Currently the District's DMA's have an average of approximately 300 meters. The creation of ten additional DMA's will reduce the average number of meters within the DMA to 190. The total price of ten additional DMA's is \$101,528.89.

Water Main Improvements - The District has identified two main line improvements that are needed as these two areas have the greatest amount of water lost. Bear Creek Road and Friendship Road are known to have the most leaks each year, and are two of the oldest lines in the District. The cost estimate for both projects is \$1,555,000.00.

Reimbursement for project estimates – The District hired Sisler-Maggard Engineering to provide cost estimates on designs needed for waterline replacements. The Commission authorized the district to be reimbursed \$5,370.00 to cover this expense.

Projected costs to replace waterlines on Silver Run Road, Redbud Subdivision, and Deer Park Road were also supplied to the Commission. The District will not have enough Surcharge funding to complete these projects, however, the District is looking into other avenues to fund these projects.

To date, the average water loss for the District is 43.3%. The unaccounted-for water loss has not declined as expected despite the District's efforts. It is predicted that once the DMA's are put into use and the water mains are replaced as stated above, the water loss will decrease to 25%. The rural area that the District serves is very large and includes many obstacles that stand in the way of decreasing the water loss. However, the District will continue to pursue its goal given by the Commission to reduce the water loss to 15%.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jessica Sexton". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jessica Sexton
Big Sandy Water District
606-928-2075