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west virginia department of environmental protection

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Division of Water and Waste Management  
601 57<sup>th</sup> Street, SE  
Charleston, WV 25304  
Phone: 304-926-0495 / Fax: 304-926-0463

Harold D. Ward, Cabinet Secretary  
dep.wv.gov

**MEMORANDUM**

**To:** Marie Prezioso, Chair  
Funding Committee  
Infrastructure and Jobs Development Council

**From:** Katheryn Emery, P. E.  
Sewer Technical Review Committee

**Date:** February 16, 2023

**Subject:** Buffalo Creek PSD  
Preliminary Application: IJDC No. 2022S-2307  
Curtis Sanitary Sewer Project

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1. This committee has reviewed the preliminary application and engineering report submitted for the above referenced project in accordance with Chapter 31, Article 15A. It has been determined that the proposed project is:
  - a.  Consistent with the intent of the Infrastructure and Jobs Development Act and is the most cost-effective, environmentally sound alternative for solving the wastewater needs in this area.
  - b.  Not consistent with the Act and may not be the most cost effective, environmentally sound alternative for solving the wastewater needs in this area.
  - c.  Same as (a) above except that certain issues need to be addressed prior to design and construction as the attached comments indicate.
2. Our recommendation is that:
  - a.  The Funding Committee needs to review the proposed sources of funding to determine the best mix of grant and/or loan funds in accordance with applicable guidelines.
  - b.  The Funding Committee should recommend that the Council approve the

Promoting a healthy environment.

- proposed project and its funding plan.
- c.  The Funding Committee does not need to review the funding assumptions on this project because of deficiencies in the engineering report. The proposed project funding should be returned until the PSC technical comments have been resolved.
- d.  This project should be referred to the Consolidation Committee.

3. Other remarks:

It is recommended that this application be tabled to next month's meeting to allow time to address the PSC technical deficiencies/comments as well as an evaluation of the funding sources for the project.



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### MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Kathy Emery, P.E., Director, DWWM

**FROM:** Jason Billups, P.E. Engineer Section Manager, DWWM

**DATE:** February 16, 2023

**SUBJECT:** Buffalo Creek PSD  
Preliminary Application: IJDC No. 2022S-2307  
Curtis Sanitary Sewer Project

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### RECOMMENDATION

The IJDC application and Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) Amendment prepared by E.L. Robinson Engineering for the above referenced project has been reviewed and it is recommended to be returned to allow time to address the PSC deficiencies/comments.

### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Buffalo Creek Public Service District (PSD) owns and operates a wastewater collection and treatment system that serves 1865 customers in Logan County, WV. The collection system consists of approximately 179,000 LF of gravity sanitary sewer, 19,000 LF of force main lines, 5 lift stations, over 1,000 manholes and cleanouts, and associated appurtenances and a 0.75 MGD wastewater treatment plant (WWTP). The system includes service to the Town of Man. The wastewater treatment plant discharges to the Guyandotte River.

The proposed project would provide a gravity collection system in the Curtis area. In addition, the project would provide a grinder pump station and approximately 13,500 LF of 3" diameter force main to connect to the existing grinder pump station near the entrance to the Powellton No. 1 coal mine.

The proposed total cost for this project is \$2,495,000 and the PSD intends to pursue \$2,495,000 in WVDEP AML Grant of \$2,495,000.

### **NEED FOR PROJECT**

The community of Curtis is located approximately 2.6 miles from the closest connection to the existing BCPSD grinder pump station. As in many rural areas, residents use septic tanks as their only form of wastewater disposal. Many septic tanks are either not installed properly or are not correctly maintained and contribute to the degradation of water quality in area streams and rivers.

The Logan Health Department has documented several cases of failing septic systems and direct discharges in the planned service areas. Inflow and Infiltration (I&I) is a large concern and the operators are attempting to discover the causes and make corrections as much as possible.

### **DEFICIENCIES/COMMENTS**

- The Engineer should address the PSC concerns/comments. The WVDEP will finish their review once that is complete and uploaded.



Billups, Jason S &lt;jason.s.billups@wv.gov&gt;

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**Buffalo Creek PSD IJDC**

1 message

**Fowler, Jonathan** <jfowler@psc.state.wv.us>

Thu, Feb 2, 2023 at 4:36 PM

To: "Emery, Katheryn D" &lt;katheryn.d.emery@wv.gov&gt;, "Jason Billups (Jason.S.Billups@wv.gov)" &lt;Jason.S.Billups@wv.gov&gt;, Wayne Morgan &lt;wmorgan@wvwda.org&gt;

Cc: "Ellars, Jim" &lt;JEllars@psc.state.wv.us&gt;, "Acord, David" &lt;DAcord@psc.state.wv.us&gt;, Marie Prezioso &lt;mprezioso@wvwda.org&gt;, "Vance, Meredith J" &lt;meredith.j.vance@wv.gov&gt;, "Thomas, Christopher W" &lt;Christopher.W.Thomas@wv.gov&gt;

All,

After reviewing the financials for the current Buffalo Creek PSD sewer project (IJDC 2022S-2307) we are going to recommend that the **application be returned**. The applicant has not used consistent figures in their R42 and they seemingly may have mixed test years. In addition, the impact of the recent rate case and the large increases in O&M provided for in that case are seemingly not properly or consistently applied. Also complicating matters, there are now questions around the availability of AML funds for sewer projects.

If anyone has a compelling reason to move this forward, let me know but; it is our opinion that this application is seriously flawed.

Regards,

Jonathan