



west virginia department of environmental protection

Division of Water and Waste Management
601 57th 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

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

Date: February 19, 2025

Subject: Ohio County Public Service District
Preliminary Application: IJDC No. 2024S-2641
Aster Drive Critical Needs Line Extension

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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 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 should be tabled for the consultant to address technical comments.
- d. ___ This project should be referred to the Consolidation Committee.

3. Other remarks:

This project proposes to extend sanitary sewer service to three unserved residents along Aster Drive in the Clinton Hills Subdivision in Tridelphia, WV. The Ohio County Health Department inspected the current onsite treatment systems and found that they are failing and the soil conditions are not adequate for proper treatment.

Using the Combined Application, the Engineering Fees appear to be below the ASCE curve.

The proposed total cost for this project is \$159,300. The Ohio County PSD intends to contribute \$56,922.50 and the PSD intends to pursue an IJDC Critical Needs Grant for the remaining amount of \$102,377.50.

Preliminary Project Ratings:

Public Health Benefits: 15
Compliance with Standards: 5



Sherrri A. Young, DO, MBA, FAAFP
Cabinet Secretary

Jason R. Frame
OEHS Director

MEMORANDUM

TO: Meredith J. Vance, Director
Environmental Engineering Division

FROM: Patrick Murphy, P.E.
Environmental Engineering Division

DATE: February 6, 2025

SUBJECT: Ohio County Public Service District
IJDC Application- **2024S-2641**
Critical Need Sewer Extension
Ohio County

Recommendation:

We have reviewed this preliminary application and recommend that it be forwarded to the Funding Committee for review.

Project Scope:

This project proposes to install approximately 650 feet of 2-inch diameter low-pressure sewer pipe, two grinder pumping units and approximately 875 feet of electrical conduit and conductors.

The total project cost is **\$159,000.00**

Need for the Project:

There are three homes along Aster Drive in the Clinton Hills Subdivision in Triadelphia that have requested sanitary sewer service from the Ohio County Public Service District. One of the three proposed homes has a failing onsite treatment system.

Concerns:

No concerns were noted.



Permits:

The following Permits and/or certificates may be required for this project.

- WV Department of Environmental Protection. WV NPDES permit
- West Virginia Division of Highways Right-of-Way Encroachment Permit



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MEMORANDUM

TO: Katheryn Emery, P.E., Engineer Chief, DWWM

FROM: Justin Moffitt, P.E., DWWM

DATE: February 7, 2025

SUBJECT: Ohio County Public Service District
Preliminary Application: IJDC No. 2024S-2641
Aster Drive Critical Needs Line Extension

RECOMMENDATION

The IJDC Application and Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) prepared by Vaughn, Coast & Vaughn, Inc for the above referenced project has been reviewed and is technically feasible.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Ohio County PSD operates and maintains a gravity sanitary sewer system 650 feet from the furthest house under consideration for this project. The Preliminary Engineering Report prepared for the Ohio County PSD by Vaughn, Coast & Vaughn, Inc. did not include any other information about the current infrastructure of the collection system that is currently operated and maintained by the Ohio County PSD.

This project proposes to extend sanitary sewer service to three (3) unserved residents along Aster Drive in the Clinton Hills Subdivision in Tridelpia, WV. The extension will require the construction of 650 linear feet (LF) of 2 inch diameter sewer line, two (2) grinder pumps, 875 LF of electrical conduit and conductors, electrical service connection to the power company and related appurtenances. The topographical conditions are such that a low-pressure sewer extension would be required to extend service to the three (3) homes therefore, the Ohio County PSD will implement the WV PSC main line extension rule.

The proposed total cost for this project is \$159,300. The Ohio County PSD intends to contribute \$56,922.50 and the PSD intends to pursue an IJDC Critical Needs Grant for the remaining amount of \$102,377.50.

NEED FOR PROJECT

One of the homes requesting sewer service wanted to sell their property but upon inspection it was revealed that the home had a failing septic system. The homeowner in need contacted the County Health Department to review the site and make a recommendation for an acceptable onsite treatment solution. A test pit was excavated to determine soil characteristics for a new leach field for the existing septic tank. Unfortunately, two (2) feet below the ground surface a coal seam was discovered. Coal seams are not an acceptable soil condition for a leach field. At this point, the Ohio County Health Department inspected the onsite treatment systems of the two (2) other homes and found that the onsite treatment systems for these homes were failing as well.

The Ohio County Health Department agreed that connecting these homes to the Public Sewer Utility appears to be the best option to provide sewer service to these three (3) homes in terms of operation, environmental and long-term success. A letter of support from the Ohio County Health Department is included as Exhibit D submitted in the PER prepared by Vaughn, Coast & Vaughn, Inc.

DEFICIENCIES/COMMENTS

- No inventory, history, condition or information of the collection system, WWTP, Discharge, NPDES, etc was included in the report.
- Using the Combined Application, the Engineering Fees appear to be below the ASCE curve.

Preliminary Project Ratings:

Public Health Benefits: 15
Compliance with Standards: 5

Public Service Commission of West Virginia

201 Brooks Street, P.O. Box 812
Charleston, West Virginia 25323

Phone: (304) 340-0300
Fax: (304) 340-0325



February 4, 2025

Ms. Kathy Emery, P. E.
Office of Water Resources
Department of Environmental Protection
601 57th St.
Charleston, West Virginia 25304

Re: Public Service Commission Staff Review Comments
Application No. 2024S-2641
Ohio County PSD – Line extension, Critical Need
Infrastructure Preliminary Application

Dear Ms. Emery:

As requested, the Technical Staff of the Public Service Commission of West Virginia has completed its review of the above-referenced Infrastructure application. In light of Technical Staff's comments enclosed herewith, we are recommending the application be:

- Forward the Application
- Return the Application
- Returned to the Applicant

Please advise if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Jonathan M Fowler
Jonathan M. Fowler, P.E.
Engineering Division

Enclosures
JMF:vb

**PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION STAFF
TECHNICAL REVIEW**

DATE: February 4, 2025

PROJECT SPONSOR: OHIO COUNTY PUBLIC SERVICE DISTRICT -
SEWER

PROJECT SUMMARY: The Ohio County Public Service District proposes a critical need sanitary sewer extension to serve three (3) customers on Astor Drive in Clinton Hills.

PROPOSED FUNDING: Ohio County PSD & Cust. Contributions \$ 56,922.50
IJDC Critical Needs Grant \$102,377.50
Total \$159,300.00

**CURRENT/
PROPOSED RATES:** \$60.05 3,400 gallons
\$67.62 4,000 gallons

Application No. 2024S-2641

RECOMMENDATION: forward to the Funding Committee.
 forward to the Consolidation Committee.
 return to the Applicant.

FINANCIAL: Bob Cadle

1. Current rates (\$60.05 for 3,400 gallons) are above the rates attributable to 1.25% (\$50.06) of the Median Household Income (MHI), but below the rates attributable to 1.5% (\$60.07), 1.75% (\$70.08), and 2% (\$80.09) of the Median Household Income.
2. For purposes of this review, Staff is assuming 100% grant funding. Therefore, no cash flow is provided.
3. Notes to Comments:
 - A. Staff used the MHI for Ohio County of \$48,056 from the 2020 U.S. Census versus the MHI of \$27,708 that was listed in the application.

- B. Staff notes the project sponsor is requesting a waiver of the Draft Rule 42 Exhibit requirement. We have no objection to this request.
- C. Senate Bill 234, effective June 12, 2015, required water and sewer utilities that are political subdivisions of the state to maintain a cash working capital reserve in an amount of no less than one-eighth (1/8) of actual annual operation and maintenance expenses. The project sponsor would need to have non-restricted funds available to meet the 1/8 requirement, otherwise, it may need to take steps to fund this reserve. This 1/8 requirement, along with any steps taken to fund this reserve, may be evaluated by the Commission in future filings in accordance with Public Service Commission General Order 183.11.
- D. The Public Service District should carefully evaluate its revenue requirements before pursuing a rate increase in order to ensure that rates are sufficient to provide a reasonable surplus and meet coverage requirements. Staff notes that the District is a political subdivision of the state and has at least 4,500 customers and annual gross revenues of \$3 million or more. Therefore, in accordance with Senate Bill 234, effective June 12, 2015, the Commission has no jurisdiction regarding the District's rates pursuant to WV Code 24-2-4a and WV Code 16-13A-9. However, the Commission does have jurisdiction pursuant to WV Code 24-2-1(b)(6) for the investigation and resolution of disputes involving political subdivisions of the state regarding inter-utility agreements, rates, fees and charges, service areas and contested utility combinations.

ENGINEERING: Jonathan M. Fowler, P.E.

1. This project will not require a Certificate from the PSC.
2. Scope & Need: The Ohio County Public Service District proposes a critical need sanitary sewer extension to serve three (3) customers on Astor Drive in Clinton Hills. These households have failing on-site septic systems and the Ohio County Health Department has ordered them to abandon the septic systems and connect to the Ohio County Public Service District. The project consists of the installation of about 700 feet of small-diameter

force main, two simplex grinder pumps, electrical systems and appurtenances. The project cost is \$159,300 with an estimated construction cost of \$130,000 including contingency. Funding requested is 100% critical need grant.

Customer Density: Using three new customers and 0.13 miles of new main, the customer density is 22.6 customers per mile of new line which is good.

Cost per New Customer: Based on a project cost of \$159,300 and three customers, the cost per customer is about \$53,100 which is good for a critical needs line extension project.

Customer participation: The applicant provided documentation for three users out of a total of three potential users. This is a participation rate of 100%.

3. Project Feasibility: The project is technically feasible and poses little implementation risk.
4. Project Alternatives: Small extensions of water service in rural areas offer little opportunity for practical, cost-effective alternatives beyond the extension of existing mains. Staff has no objection to the proposed scope of work.
5. Consolidation: There are no consolidation opportunities presented by this small line extension project.
6. Inconsistencies: No fatal issues were noticed.
7. Operation and Maintenance (O & M) Expenses: O & M expenses will be carried by the entire customer base and the very small increase due to this project would likely be negligible and offset by revenues from the new customers. However, no calculations were provided.
8. Engineering Agreement: The application includes information to determine presumptive compliance with West Virginia Code §§5G-1-1, et seq. Total technical services (engineering) costs for the project are \$18,000 which is equal to 13.9% of the construction cost.