



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
Meredith J. Vance, Director, Environmental Engineering Division, BPH

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

Date: October 15, 2025

Subject: Putnam County Commission
IJDC Application - 2025W-2713
Fisher Ridge Water Main Extension

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 water 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.

Promoting a healthy environment.

- 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 will extend water service to 28 new customers in the Fisher Ridge area. Many families do not have an adequate quality or supply of water to meet their basic family needs and must haul water. The residents in the area have contacted the PCC consistently for many years to be served because of all these issues. This project will address these concerns and issues.

The total project cost is \$3,100,000 and the Putnam County Commission intends to pursue a \$2,300,000 USACE Grant, \$500,000 IJDC Grant, \$188,800 WVAW Contribution, and \$111,200 PCC Contribution.

Preliminary Project Ratings:

Public Health Benefits: 5

Compliance with Standards: 5



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MEMORANDUM

TO: Katheryn Emery, P.E., Program Manager, DWWM

FROM: Justin Moffitt, P.E., DWWM

DATE: October 6, 2025

SUBJECT: Putnam County Commission
IJDC Application - 2025W-2713
Fisher Ridge Water Main Extension

RECOMMENDATION

The IJDC Application and Preliminary Engineering Report prepared by The Terradon Corporation for the above referenced project has been reviewed and is technically feasible.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This project is being proposed as a Public-Private Partnership between the Putnam County Commission (PCC), the Putnam County Building Commission (PCBC) and West Virginia American Water (WVAM).

The KVVWTP is located in Kanawha County, WV and currently serves over 200,000 customers in portions of Kanawha, Putnam, Boone, Lincoln, Cabell, Fayette, Roane, Jackson and Mason. The KVVWTP operates under PWSID Permit #WV3302106. The KVVWTP currently has a 50 MGD capacity with the availability to upgrade to an 80 MGD capacity.

The proposed project will extend water service to 28 new customers in the Fisher Ridge area. The project will consist of approximately 19,360 linear feet (LF) of 8", 1,560 LF of 6", and 2,500 LF of 2" water line. Additionally, the project will provide 11 fire hydrant assemblies, one (1) booster station and one (1) 1,500,000 gallon Water Storage Tank (WST).

The proposed total cost for the project is \$3,100,000 and the Putnam County Commission intends to pursue a \$2,300,000 USACE Grant, \$500,000 IJDC Grant, \$188,800 WVAW Contribution, and \$111,200 PCC Contribution. The current monthly rate for 3,400 gallons is \$82.40 (1.96% MHI) The proposed project does not include a rate increase.

NEED FOR PROJECT

This area of Putnam County continues to rely on individual family wells, springs and cisterns. Many families do not have an adequate quality or supply of water to meet their basic family needs and must haul water. The residents in the area have contacted the PCC consistently for many years to be served because of all these issues. KVVWTP's average daily flow for 2024 was 25 MGD indicating the plant has sufficient capacity to supply water to this extension project.

DEFICIENCIES/COMMENTS

- No alternatives were provided but with the location of the project the selected scope is appropriate.
- Using the Combined Application, the Design, and Total Engineering Fees appear to be within the ASCE Curves.

Preliminary Project Ratings:

Public Health Benefits: 5
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



October 6, 2025

Meredith J. Vance
Office of Environmental Health Services
350 Capitol Street, Room 313
Charleston, West Virginia 25301-3713

Re: Public Service Commission Staff Review Comments
Application No. 2025W-2713
Putnam County Commission – Waterline Extension (Fisher Ridge)
Infrastructure Preliminary Application

Dear Ms. Vance:

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:

☒ Forwarded to the Funding Committee

☐ Forwarded to the Consolidation Committee

☐ Returned to the Applicant

Please advise if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Brandon Crace

Brandon Crace
Engineering Division

Enclosures
BC:

**PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION STAFF
TECHNICAL REVIEW**

DATE: October 6, 2025

PROJECT SPONSOR: PUTNAM COUNTY COMMISSION / PUTNAM COUNTY
BUILDING COMMISSION - WATER

PROJECT SUMMARY: The Putnam County Commission, in cooperation with West Virginia American Water (a public-private partnership), is proposing to extend water service to 28 potential water customers along Fisher Ridge Road.

PROPOSED FUNDING: USACE	\$ 2,300,000
WVAWC Contribution	188,800
Putnam Co. Commission Grant	111,200
IJDC Grant	<u>\$ 500,000</u>
Total	\$ 3,100,000

CURRENT/PROPOSED

RATES:	\$ 89.00	3,400 gallons (plus 7.01% DSIC= \$95.24)
	\$100.12	4,000 gallons (plus 7.01% DSIC= \$107.14)

Application No. 2025W-2713

RECOMMENDATION: X Forward to the Funding Committee
 Forward to the Consolidation Committee
 Return to the Applicant

FINANCIAL: Dave Acord, II

1. Current rates (\$89.00 for 3,400 gallons) are above the rate attributable to 1.25% (\$66.62) and 1.5% (\$79.94) of the Median Household Income (MHI), but below 1.75% (\$93.27) and 2% (\$106.59) of the MHI. It should be noted that the current rate listed includes a \$12.00 surcharge that is included in the project sponsor's tariff (\$77.00 rate for 3,400 gallons plus \$12.00 surcharge = \$89.00)
2. NOTES TO COMMENTS
 - A. Since the Applicant's rates and the operation and maintenance costs are "rolled into" the operations of the West Virginia-American Water Company (WVAWC), no cash flow is attached. The current rates apply

to many customers over a large geographical area who share the aggregated revenue requirements of the WVAWC. The Putnam County Building Commission contracts with WVAWC for the operation of the water distribution facilities and customer services; the Putnam County Building Commission does not operate any water facilities.

- B. WVAWC's contribution per customer, under the Commission's main extension rule, is approximately \$6,743 per customer. This assumes there are no further costs incurred on the extension. In this application, the Applicant proposes that WVAWC contribute \$188,800 toward the project. If the WVAWC contribution is based upon \$6,743 per potential customer, then they would provide \$168,575 ($\$6,743 \times 25$ new customers). An agreement with WVAWC detailing the amount and terms of their contribution should be filed with the Commission along with any CN filing made in this matter, if applicable.
- C. On April 7, 2014, the Commission issued an Order in Case No. 11-1451-W-C (involving public/private partnerships) which ordered that WVAWC among other items, has an obligation to contribute the amount required by Water Rule 5.5 (now Water Rule 7.5) toward a proposed project as modified by substituting the current company average usage into the formula.
- D. Staff notes that the project sponsor requested a Draft Rule 42 Exhibit waiver.
- E. On September 11, 2025, the project sponsor requested a change in its funding package. Staff used the revised funding request in its review.
- F. It should be noted that the preliminary engineering report notes that the \$12.00 monthly surcharge per customer for previous projects is being eliminated for future projects. Thus, it's proposed that the customers served by this project will pay the same rates as WVAW (without surcharge). If approved, the rates for customers served by this project would be \$77.00 for 3,400 gallons (plus 7.01% DSIC = \$82.40).

ENGINEERING: Brandon Crace

1. Pursuant to House Bill 2742 passed in the 2025 Legislative Session, this project will not require a Certificate of Convenience and Necessity from the PSC.

2. Scope: The Putnam County Commission, in cooperation with West Virginia American Water (a public-private partnership), is proposing to extend water service to 28 potential water customers along Fisher Ridge Road. The proposed project scope includes: a 150,000-gallon water storage tank, a booster station, 19360 LF of 8-inch PVC waterline , 1560 LF of 6-inch PVC waterline, 2500 LF of 2-inch PVC waterline, 11 fire hydrants, 4 blow-off assembly, 1 air release valve, 28 water service setters, 900 LF of 3/4-inch service line, fourteen (14) 8-inch gate valves, one (1) 6-inch gate valve, four (4) 2-inch gate valves, 1 connection to existing water main, 60 LF of 16-inch steel casing (bore & jack), and all necessary appurtenances. The estimated construction cost is \$2,530,780 (includes 7.89% construction contingency), and the estimated total project cost is \$3,100,000 (includes 4.44% project contingency).

Need: The PER indicates that residents within the project area currently "...rely on individual family wells, springs, and cisterns.", "Many of these systems produce water that does not meet the drinking water quality requirements of the WV Department of Health and Human Resources due to mineral and biological contamination.", and "Some families do not have an adequate supply of water to meet their basic family needs and must haul all of their water." Additionally, the PER states "This project was initiated by the public in the form of persistent phone calls and petitions presented to the Putnam County Commission."

Customer Density: Based upon the provided water main pipe quantities (23,420 LF), the proposed water line extensions total approximately 4.44 mile. This is approximately equivalent to 6 customers per mile.

Cost per Customer: Based upon the estimated total project cost of \$3,100,000, and proposing to have 28 new customers, the cost to serve each new customer is \$110,714. However, the project is proposed to be 100% grant and contribution funded; therefore, the proposed borrowing is \$0.

3. Project Feasibility: The project appears to be technically feasible and poses little technical risk.
4. Project Alternatives: The PER did not include an evaluation of alternatives.
5. Consolidation: There are no consolidation opportunities presented by this project.

6. Operation and Maintenance (O&M) Expenses: Although the PER states WVAWC will be responsible for all O&M costs, there is no further discussion or breakdown of O&M expenses. The PER states “No rate increase will be required by WVAW to serve the 28 customers added by this project.” (*It can be assumed that WVAWC O&M costs will increase due to the addition of a 150,0000-gallon water storage tank, a booster station, waterline, fire hydrants, valves, and increased water treatment demand.*)
7. Engineering Agreement: The application includes information to determine compliance with West Virginia Code §5G-1-1, et seq. Total technical services (engineering) costs for the project are \$450,000, which is equal to 19.69% of the construction cost of \$2,285,000 (includes construction contingency).
8. Deficiencies/Comments:
 - Neither the Application or PER includes documentation of community support (evidence of public meetings, written requests for water service, user sign-ups, etc.).
 - The PER states “...rely on individual family wells, springs, and cisterns.”, “Many of these systems produce water that does not meet the drinking water quality requirements of the WV Department of Health and Human Resources due to mineral and biological contamination.”, and “Some families do not have an adequate supply of water to meet their basic family needs and must haul all of their water.”; however, *no supporting documents were included for review.*
 - The PER states that “The average monthly bill for each customer would be \$679.80.” (*This statement appears to be incorrect.*)
 - The proposed construction contingency amount (7.89%) is below the standard 10%.



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M E M O R A N D U M

MEMO TO: Meredith J. Vance
Office of Environmental Health Services
Bureau for Public Health

FROM: Brian D. Bailey 
Technical Analyst
General Permits & Support Team

DATE: September 17, 2025

SUBJECT: Infrastructure Preliminary Application for the Putnam County Commission
(2025W-2713): Fisher Ridge Waterline Ext. in Putnam County, WV.

We have reviewed the above referenced project application information. The Putnam County Commission purchases water from WV American Water. No NPDES permit modifications are necessary.

If the Putnam County Commission is considering repairing and painting an existing water treatment plant or storage tanks, then the scope of this project requires precautions to prevent contamination of the waters of the state. Prior to beginning any removal of old paint, the Putnam County Commission should contact Mr. Brad Wright or a member of his staff at (304)-926-0499, extension 49746 for guidance in determining whether the paint to be removed is considered a hazardous waste. If so, proper containment and disposal procedures must be followed for the paint and any material associated with the sandblasting. If it is determined that the paint is not hazardous, the Putnam County Commission should contact John Lockhart or a member of his staff at (304)-926-0499, extension 43889 for proper disposal options.

Construction activities with a disturbed area of one (1) acre or greater are now required to register for the NPDES Storm Water Construction General Permit No. WV0115924 that became

effective on April 6, 2024. Projects registered under the previous General Permit No. WV0115100 were automatically provided coverage under WV/NPDES General Permit No. WV0115924. For more information, they may contact Larry Board at (304)-926-0499, extension 43883.

In light of the above, we have no objection to this project as long as the appropriate provisions are taken to assure compliance with Chapter 22, Article 11, of the Code of West Virginia and any associated regulations. The responsible party may contact Mylinda Maddox (304) 926-0499 ext. 43825, should additional information be required.

BDB:mam

cc: Kathryn Emery