



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., Program Manager
Sewer Technical Review Committee

Date: November 7, 2025

Subject: Salt Rock Sewer Public Service District
IJDC Application - 2025S-2726
Rt. 60 Sanitary Sewer Service 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 sewer service to 11 new residential/commercial customers along US Route 60 and Saunders Creek Road. This project would help to eliminate the on-site systems and reduce fecal coliform loading to the Mud River which is on the 303d list for fecal coliform.

The Total Engineering Fees are above the ASCE Curve and a variance will be needed.

The total project cost is \$900,000 and the PSD intends to pursue a \$900,000 Critical Needs Grant from the West Virginia Infrastructure and Jobs Development Council (WVIJDC).

Preliminary Project Ratings:

Public Health Benefits:	10
Compliance with Standards:	20



STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
BUREAU FOR PUBLIC HEALTH
OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

Arvin Singh, EdD, MBA, MS, FACHE
Secretary of Health

Jason R. Frame
OEHS Director

MEMORANDUM

TO: Meredith J. Vance, Director
Environmental Engineering Division

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

DATE: November 4, 2025

SUBJECT: Salt Rock Sewer PSD
IJDC Application- **2025S-2726**
Sewer Service Extension
Cabell County

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

Project Scope: The proposed project would extend sanitary sewer to residences and businesses along US Route 60 as well as to a proposed 40 house development.

The total project cost is **\$900,000.00**

Need for the Project: The Preliminary Engineering Report did not address a need for the project. The project was initiated at a customer's request after obtaining signatures for the project.

Concerns: No concerns were noted.

Permits: Permits expected to be required include:

- WV Bureau of Public Health Permit
- WVDEP NPDES Permit
- WV Department of Environmental Protection





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MEMORANDUM

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

FROM: Tyler Barrett, E.I., DWWM

DATE: November 4, 2025

SUBJECT: Salt Rock Sewer Public Service District
IJDC Application - 2025S-2726
Rt. 60 Sanitary Sewer Service Extension

RECOMMENDATION

The IJDC Application and Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) prepared by Potesta & Associates, Inc. for the above-mentioned project have been reviewed and are technically feasible.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Salt Rock Public Service District (District) operates a regional wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) (NPDES No. WV0084450) located west of the City of Milton (Milton) in Cabell County, WV. The WWTP also serves the Culloden Public Service District and Milton. The three operate under their September 30, 2022 Regional Wastewater and Transmission Agreement. As part of this agreement, the District is responsible for maintaining the WWTP as well as certain components of the Culloden and Milton systems used to transmit flow to the District. The District's system serves approximately 1,675 customers.

This project is to install approximately 1,850 LF of gravity collection sewer to serve 11 new potential residential/commercial customers along US Route 60 and Saunders Creek Road. This line will tie into the newly built Fox Fire Resort pump station.

The total proposed project cost is \$900,000.00 and the District intends to pursue a \$900,000 Critical Needs Grant from the West Virginia Infrastructure and Jobs Development Council (WVIJDC). The current rate for 3,400 gallons is \$66.08 (1.91% of MHI).

NEED FOR PROJECT

None of the eleven (11) potential customers are currently serviced by any public utility. Of them, only one has a treatment system that is considered adequate by the Cabell-Huntington Health Department.

The nearby watersheds of Saunders Creek and Mud River are both listed on the 303d list for fecal coliform. Potesta & Associates had laboratory testing done of two water samples from Saunder's Creek and found a concentration equal to or greater than 2,419.6 colonies per 100 mL of sample (col/mL). The water quality criteria, as included in Title 47 of the Code of States Rules, Section 2, state fecal coliform content for water shall not exceed 200 col/mL as a monthly geometric mean, nor exceed 400 col/mL in more than 10 percent of all samples taken during the month. The 2022 USEPA TMDL Report identifies that a 100 percent reduction is required from failing on-site sanitary systems. This project would help to eliminate these on-site systems and reduce fecal coliform loading to Saunders Creek and Mud River.

DEFICIENCIES/COMMENTS

- Using the Combined Application, the Design Fees appear to be within the ASCE Curve and the Total Engineering Fees appear to be above the ASCE Curve.
- Calculate design flows using EDUs (currently treating commercial and residential customers the same).
- Discuss any relevant flood plain information.
- Discuss any unavoidable adverse impacts of the project.

Preliminary Project Ratings:

Public Health Benefits: 10
Compliance with Standards: 20

Public Service Commission of West Virginia

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

Phone: (304) 340-0300
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October 27, 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. 2025S-2726
Salt Rock Sewer PSD – Sewer Extension (US Route 60)
Infrastructure Preliminary Application – Critical Need

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:

- ☒ 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

**PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION STAFF
TECHNICAL REVIEW**

DATE: October 27, 2025

PROJECT SPONSOR: SALT ROCK SEWER PUBLIC SERVICE DISTRICT-
(SEWER)

PROJECT SUMMARY: Salt Rock Sewer PSD is proposing to extend sewer service to 11 potential sewer customers along US Route 60.

PROPOSED FUNDING: IJDC Critical Needs Grant \$900,000

CURRENT/PROPOSED

RATES:	\$66.08	3,400 gallons
	\$74.61	4,000 gallons

Application No. 2025S-2726

RECOMMENDATION: ☒ Forward to the Funding Committee
☐ Forward to the Consolidation Committee
☐ Return to the Applicant

FINANCIAL: William Nelson

1. Current rates (\$66.08 for 3,400 gallons) are above the rate attributable to 1.25% (\$43.20), 1.5% (\$51.84), and 1.75% (\$60.48) of the Median Household Income (MHI), but below the rates attributable to and 2.0% (\$69.12) of the MHI.
2. For purposes of this review, Staff is assuming 100% grant funding. Therefore, no cash flow is provided.
3. NOTES TO COMMENTS

- A. Staff notes the Applicant's rates were approved in Case No. 22-0577-PSD-19A and became effective on June 8, 2023.
- B. 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. It should be noted

that the cash flows provided by the project sponsor include funding for the 1/8 cash working capital 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.

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 Salt Rock Sewer PSD is proposing to extend sewer service to 11 potential sewer customers along US Route 60. The proposed project scope includes: 1550 LF of 8-inch PVC gravity sewer pipe, 180 LF of 6-inch PVC gravity sewer pipe, 500 LF of 4-inch PVC gravity sewer pipe, 12 manholes, 21 VF of manhole riser sections, 100 LF of 16-inch steel casing (bore and jack), 40 LF of 15-inch casing (open cut), 20 LF of 12-inch casing (open cut), 20 LF of 8-inch casing (open cut), 3 service connections (with wye), 3 cleanouts, 30 LF of gravel driveway/road restoration, ten (10) 8-inch concrete pipe anchors, four (4) 6-inch concrete pipe anchors, twenty (20) 4-inch concrete pipe anchors, 1 high pressure gas line crossing, 1 tie-in to existing pump station, and all necessary appurtenances. The estimated construction cost is \$648,000 (includes 15.01% construction contingency), and the estimated total project cost is \$900,000 (includes 4.56% project contingency).

Need: The PER indicates that residents within the project area currently rely on private sewer systems. The Cabell-Huntington Health Department indicates that some of these private systems are: “unknown septic system[s]”, located on steep slopes, which property appears to not have adequate space “that would meet state requirements”, and/or have home aeration systems (requiring “continuous proper maintenance”).

Customer Density: Based upon the provided water main pipe quantities (2,230 LF), the proposed water line extensions total approximately 0.42 mile. This is approximately equivalent to 26 customers per mile; however, the project area only serves a total of 11 potential customers.

Cost per Customer: Based upon the estimated total project cost of \$900,000, and proposing to have 11 new customers, the cost to serve each new customer is \$81,818. 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 include an evaluation of 2 alternatives: Alternative #1 and Alternative #2, both of which propose extending service to 11 potential customers using gravity sewer mains and collection lines. The alternatives presented included an evaluation of 2 different proposed alignments. The PER indicates that Alternative #1 was selected as the proposed scope will extend sewage service to the 11 potential sewer customers, and the total cost is less than Alternative #2. The PER indicates that Salt Rock Sewer PSD would request consideration of Alternative #2's alignment being approved as the alignment would be closer to a potential residential development.
5. Consolidation: There are no consolidation opportunities presented by this project.
6. Operation and Maintenance (O&M) Expenses: The PER indicates that O&M expenses are anticipated to increase by \$500 annually. The projected increase in O&M expenses is attributed to the additional power, pumping, and administration needs.
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 \$178,500, which is equal to 27.55% of the construction cost of \$648,000 (includes construction contingency).
8. Deficiencies/Comments:
 - The PER indicates that both alternatives propose a gravity sewer main alignment (including several manholes) along Saunders Creek, which is within the FEMA 100-year floodplain. Additionally, it is understood that the existing slope to the between Saunders Creek and the cluster of 5 potential customers is steep, or very steep.
 - Constructing the sewer main, multiple manholes, and service laterals within the floodplain could result in reoccurring maintenance issues

(line jetting, manhole cleaning, manhole flooding, pipe washout, etc.) for the Salt Rock PSD and/or its customers.

- It is understood that the customer service laterals are proposed to be constructed on the existing steep slope. Although it appears the current proposal includes paying for the installation of long service laterals on the steep slope, through thick vegetation, this will require the individual customers to maintain these steep service laterals.
- Due to the existing steep slope, length of proposed customer service laterals, and proposed alignment (including manholes) within the FEMA 100-year floodplain, the Engineer may want to evaluate other alignments (possibly evaluating grinder stations) that would limit the amount of Salt Rock PSDs buried assets within the floodplain.