



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: Brad Sergent, Chair
Meredith J. Vance, Director, Environmental Engineering Division, BPH

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

Date: January 22, 2026

Subject: Taylor County Commission
IJDC Application - 2025W-2731
Critical Needs Slaton Hollow Water Line Extension Project

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 is to extend water service to 14 residences along Slaton Hollow Road and County Road 20/5 that have poor quantity and quality individual wells . This will provide these residents the public health benefit of safe reliable drinking water.

The total project cost is \$1,100,000 and Taylor County intends to pursue an \$825,000 WVIJDC Critical Needs Line Extension Grant and a \$275,000 Taylor County Commission Grant. The current monthly rate is \$25.77 (0.89% MHI) for 3,400 gallons, and user rates are not expected to increase.

An agreement between the Taylor County Commission and the City of Grafton will be required for continued responsibility for operation and maintenance of this extension..

The Funding Committee should evaluate the proposed funding for project viability.

Preliminary Project Ratings:

Public Health Benefits:	5
Compliance with Standards:	0



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MEMORANDUM

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

FROM: Tamer Abdelgelil, DWWM

DATE: January 5, 2026

SUBJECT: Taylor County Commission
IJDC Application - 2025W-2731
Critical Needs Slaton Hollow Water Line Extension Project

RECOMMENDATION

The IJDC Application and Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) prepared by The Thrasher Group, Inc. for the above referenced project have been reviewed and are technically feasible.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The City of Grafton Water Department (Grafton), located in Taylor County, West Virginia, owns and operates a potable water distribution system under Public Water Service Identification (PWSID) No. WV3304601. As of 2024, Grafton provides water services to 2,569 customers, including its residential population and customers in the areas of Pruntytown, Morasco, Parkview, and other adjacent communities. The distribution system consists of approximately 120 miles of water service lines, four water storage tanks with a total capacity of 1.24 million gallons, and four booster stations. Grafton purchases their treated water from Taylor County Public Service District.

The Taylor County Commission has proposed a project for the incorporation of additional customers and the extension of water services to an underserved area along Slaton Hollow Road and County Route 20/5. It will subsequently become the responsibility of Grafton to maintain ownership of all proposed facilities in the new service area. Proposed improvements include the installation of 7,000 linear feet (LF) of 6-inch PVC service line, five fire hydrants, 15 water meters, and other required appurtenances. This service extension will result in the addition of 14 new customers to Grafton's existing water distribution system.

The proposed total cost for this project is \$1,100,000. The Taylor County Commission intends to fund this project using an \$825,000 WVIJDC Critical Needs Line Extension Grant and a \$275,000 Taylor County Commission Grant. The current monthly rate is \$25.77 (0.89% MHI) for 3,400 gallons, and user rates are not expected to increase as a result of this project.

NEED FOR PROJECT

Residents within the Slaton Hollow area of Taylor County are experiencing increased difficulty in obtaining safe, reliable drinking water. For several years, residents have relied on private wells for their water supply, but these wells have severely deteriorated over time. Moreover, the quality and safety of water sourced from these wells has greatly diminished, leading to an increased risk of contamination. In some instances, residents have been unable to produce a sufficient amount of water for daily tasks and have become dependent on hauling water from outside sources. With the absence of public water access in the area, there are also concerns regarding the lack of adequate fire protection.

DEFICIENCIES/COMMENTS

- Using the Combined Application, the Total Engineering Fees appear to be below the ASCE Curves.
- PER does not discuss potential environmental impacts and the adequacy of existing facilities for additional customers.
- Evidence of an agreement between the City of Grafton and Taylor County Commission should be provided, since Grafton is expected to assume responsibilities of the new service area once the project is completed.

Preliminary Project Ratings:

Public Health Benefits:	5
Compliance with Standards:	0

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



January 14, 2026

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-2731
Taylor County Commission – Waterline Extension (Slaton Hollow)
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

**PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION STAFF
TECHNICAL REVIEW**

DATE: January 14, 2026

PROJECT SPONSOR: TAYLOR COUNTY COMMISSION – (WATER)

PROJECT SUMMARY: The Taylor County Commission, in coordination with the City of Grafton, is proposing to extend water service to 14 potential water customers along Slaton Hollow.

PROPOSED FUNDING:	IJDC Critical Needs Grant	\$825,000
	Taylor County Commission Grant	<u>275,000</u>
	Total	\$1,100,000

CURRENT/PROPOSED

RATES:	\$25.77	3,400 gallons
	\$30.32	4,000 gallons

Application No. 2025W-2731

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

FINANCIAL: William Nelson

1. Current rates (\$25.77 for 3,400 gallons) are below the rates attributable to 1.25% (\$35.99), 1.5% (\$43.19), 1.75% (\$50.39), and 2% (\$57.59) 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 notes, the Applicant is not a regulated water utility and that the project, once completed will become the property of the City of Grafton Water Department. In addition, the rate included in the application of (\$25.77 for 3,400 gallons) is the current City of Grafton water rate which has been in effect since June 1, 2011.

- 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 Taylor County Commission, in coordination with the City of Grafton, is proposing to extend water service to 14 potential water customers along Slaton Hollow. The proposed project scope includes: 7000 LF of 6-inch PVC water main, tie-in to existing water main, 30 LF of 12-inch steel casing (bore & jack), 550 LF of 3/4-inch polyethylene service tubing (open cut), 125 LF of 3/4-inch polyethylene service tubing (bore & jack), 1300 LF of 1-1/4-inch polyethylene service tubing (open cut), 50 LF of 1-1/4-inch polyethylene service tubing (bore & jack), 7 customer service reconnections, 3 air release valve assemblies, 15 high pressure single meter setting, five (5) 6-inch gate valves, 5 fire hydrants, 650 LF of WVDOH Type B Trench Repair, 500 LF of gravel driveway/road repair, 200 LF of asphalt driveway/road repair, 200 LF of stream bank slope protection, pre-construction video, erosion and sediment controls, mobilization/demobilization, restoration of disturbed areas, and all necessary appurtenances. The estimated construction cost is \$875,000 (includes 15.47% construction contingency), and the estimated total project cost is \$1,100,000 (includes 5.24% project contingency).

Need: The PER indicates that residents within the project area currently lack municipal water access. The PER states: resident report "...that their groundwater has a strong "rotten egg" odor, is discolored due to high iron content, and is unsafe for consumption.", several wells have collapsed or produce insufficient water, families conserve water or haul water for basic needs, and residents expressed concern about inadequate fire protection.

Customer Density: Based upon the provided water main pipe quantities (7,000 LF), the proposed water line extensions total approximately 1.33 mile. This is approximately equivalent to 10 customers per mile.

Cost per Customer: Based upon the estimated total project cost of \$1,100,000, and proposing to have 14 new customers, the cost to serve each new customer is \$78,571. The project application identified 10 customers signed 3-year user agreements, which results in a cost to serve each new customer of \$110,000. 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 3 alternatives: Alternative #1 – Proposed 6-inch Water Line Extension (City of Grafton), Alternative #2 – Proposed 6-inch Water Line Extension (Taylor County PSD), and Alternative #3 – Do Nothing. The PER indicates that a significant amount of waterline would be required for Taylor County PSD to extend service to this area, and the City of Grafton has a water main in the area of Slaton Hollow; therefore, Alternative #1 was selected.
5. Consolidation: There are no consolidation opportunities presented by this project.
6. Operation and Maintenance (O&M) Expenses: The PER did not include a breakdown of changes or a discussion of anticipated changes to O&M. Therefore, the extent of changes/benefits/adjustments to O&M expenses is unknown.

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 \$174,000, which is equal to 19.89% of the construction cost of \$875,000 (includes construction contingency).

8. Deficiencies/Comments:

- The Taylor County Commission will need to ensure a proper legal agreement exists between the Taylor County Commission and The City of Grafton regarding the transfer of constructed assets and the operation and maintenance of completed water extension.
- The PER did not include a breakdown of changes or a discussion of anticipated changes to O&M.
- The PER does not provide a detailed description of private on-site water systems and their current operational conditions.
- Grafton Municipal Water Department has very low water rates, and the Application indicates the estimated Revenue is more than 6 times the estimated Operation and Maintenance costs.



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MEMORANDUM

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

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

DATE: December 17, 2025

SUBJECT: Infrastructure Preliminary Application for the Taylor Co Commission
(2025W-2731): Slaton Hollow Waterline Extension in Taylor County, WV.

We have reviewed the above referenced project application information. The Taylor County Commission purchases water from the City of Grafton. No NPDES permit modifications are necessary.

If the Taylor 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 Taylor 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 Taylor 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: Katheryn Emery