

May 18, 2026

Gary Chandler, Superintendent
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LBWP Groundwater Protection Project Cost Benefit Analysis

Dear Gary:

The landscape is very different today than when we started looking at wastewater disposal options for the Lower Bartlett Water Precinct (LBWP) to provide protection for the groundwater aquifer that supplies drinking water to Mt Washington Valley.

We developed the project as part of a preliminary engineering report and received funding from USDA Rural Development for Phase I of the sewer collection project. For two years we have been trying to negotiate funding with USDA for Phase II of the project. It is our understanding that last year they did not provide any loan/grant packages and this year it does not look good for any grant funding as part of a package. As we developed Phase I, we anticipated Phase II would be constructed shortly after to keep the project affordable for your residents by spreading the costs over more users and obtaining additional grant funds from USDA RD for the construction of Phase II.

This in combination with the fact that over the past four years, the cost of goods has increased significantly and puts the sewer project in a very precarious position. The cost of the project has also increased with additional requirements for the pump station delivering sewage to the NCWP system. The estimated cost of the Route 302 pump station has increased to \$2.8M mainly due to the addition of a deragger system requiring a larger building and a water connection for backwash / cleaning.

Until we have an IMA in place, we cannot obtain approval from NCWP or NHDES. I know you have been negotiating the agreement but there are still some unknown costs associated with that agreement.

With so many unknowns I suggest we slow down and take a step back. I suggest we look at the cost benefit analysis we completed in 2022 and update it with more recent costs for all of the alternatives including O&M so the Commissioners can make an informed decision that is in the best interest of your customers. There have been some advancements in onsite treatment that improve the quality of the discharge. We need to update the 2022 numbers to 2027 costs and look at the long term impact of each option again.

With this in mind, there are some pieces of information from the NCWP IMA and Appendices that would be useful to have so we can develop accurate O&M costs.

Could you work with Jason and NCWP to help us obtain the following information that seems to be missing from the last draft of the IMA and appendices.

1. Appendix C – how are the percentage determined from total expense to common to all
2. Does the percentage include a deduction for the sewer that is within NCWP protection radius and outside of LBWP protection radius? A one time buy in fee, vs. percentage in perpetuity?
3. Appendix D what is the reserved capacity at WWTF for LBWP
4. Appendix D what is the design capacity at Remoat PS vs LBWP flow – so the share % based on peak flow, minus the peak flow generated from within NCWP well head zone. What is that % capacity
5. Appendix D what are the cost estimates for the North End Capacity Upgrade, Saco River Erosion, Aeration Upgrade 2025
6. Appendix F is missing

In the meantime, we will continue to work on updated capital costs for alternatives for your project as well as updating the LBWP O&M costs for its portion of the system.

We are happy to meet with you and the Commissioners to discuss the project in more detail.

Sincerely,

Verdantas



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