

DBP Compliance

MassDEP & EPA Quarterly Update



Quarter 1 Update: January – March 2026

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The Springfield Water and Sewer Commission (Commission) has embarked on several large-scale projects to replace 50- to 100-year-old drinking water infrastructure needed to maintain a consistent supply of safe drinking water and to achieve compliance with regulatory limits for disinfection by-products (DBPs). This is a quarterly update on the progress made on those projects.

- **New Water Treatment Plant** – The project team is working with EPA and MassDEP to address the discovery of PCB materials found in original construction materials associated with four of the eight slow sand filters (constructed in 1966) slated for demolition and located in the project footprint. The Project Engineer is evaluating alternatives for testing and disposal of the PCB contaminated materials located onsite and at other facilities and has submitted the first of several sampling plans to EPA for review and acceptance. The Engineer is also working to facilitate demolition of the four uncontaminated slow sand filters and has submitted a Beneficial Use Determination (BUD) modification plan to MassDEP for review and approval. Onsite, the Contractor continued installation of the 60-inch and 72-inch raw water conveyance pipelines for the new WTP as well as work on other drainage and water lines. Modifications to the Backwash Facility are nearly complete.
- **42-inch Raw Water Transmission Main / Energy Dissipating Valve (EDV) and Equalization Tank Facility** – On the pipeline, the Contractor completed remaining work at pipe connections and manways and installed pressure monitoring system along the pipeline. The Engineer completed a full inspection of the pipeline and identified additional minor repairs to be completed before startup of the pipeline. At the EDV Facility, the Contractor is nearing completion of the structure and is completing electrical and HVAC work, pressure testing, final concrete work, and site restoration. The Contractor is preparing for pipeline and facility startup and is coordinating trainings and vendor visits. The Contractor is currently projecting startup of the facility this summer.
- **Cobble Mountain Hydroelectric Station Improvements for Primary Raw Water Conveyance** – The Engineer continued to design the rehabilitation of the Unit #3 turbine and generator, which also includes electrical updates, replacement of the inlet butterfly valves and actuators, lining the penstock to Unit #3, and rehabilitating the existing bridge crane. Bid packages for the valves, penstock, and bridge crane are currently out to bid, and the prequalification process for the turbine/generator rehabilitation vendor is currently underway. The Engineer is also working to finalize the design package for the turbine/generator unit for bidding, and the 60% design for the plant electrical work is anticipated in April. The Plant Operator is managing the work. Improvements are projected to be completed in 2028 with the schedule subject to change due to project dependencies between the multiple bid packages.

We have included additional information for each project on the following project update pages.

Please contact us if you would like more information about these projects. More information is also available at <https://waterandsewer.org/projects/> and at <https://www.newwestparish.com/>.

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New West Parish Water Treatment Plant

Project Purpose: This project is for design and construction of a new water treatment plant (WTP) to meet system demand while providing a higher level of treatment to achieve long-term, consistent compliance with the Disinfection By-Product (DBP) Rule. The new WTP will replace the existing direct filtration and slow sand filtration plants, which were not designed to remove adequate dissolved natural organic matter (NOM) to meet current regulatory limits for HAA5s and THMs.

The Commission has been in periodic non-compliance for HAA5s since 2018. To address this issue, after completing several studies, the Commission identified that modifications to the existing plant processes would not be sufficient to achieve compliance, and that the addition of clarification was needed to reliably remove NOM and maintain compliance. Based on the results of a three-season pilot plant operation, Dissolved Air Flotation (DAF) with a polyaluminum chloride coagulant was selected as the clarification process for the new conventional plant.

Delivery Approach: Design-Bid-Build. Planned financing using WIFIA and SRF.

Progress: The project team is working with EPA and MassDEP to address the discovery of PCB materials found in original construction materials associated with four of the eight slow sand filters (SSFs 15-18, constructed in 1966) slated for demolition and located in the project footprint. The SSFs have been offline since construction began in March 2025 and there is no risk of exposure to the public or employees. The Project Engineer is evaluating alternatives for testing and disposal of the PCB contaminated materials located onsite and at other facilities and has submitted the first of several sampling plans to EPA for review and acceptance. Sampling is a vital step in determining what options are available for a timely, cost-sensitive and safe/regulatorily compliant disposal.

The Engineer is also working to facilitate demolition of the four uncontaminated slow sand filters and has submitted a Beneficial Use Determination (BUD) modification plan to MassDEP in March for SSFs 7-10 that requests approval to dispose of SSF sand and concrete in-place. The regulator house associated with these SSFs will be disposed of as Toxic Substances Control Act (TCSA) regulated bulk waste due to the discovered presence of PCBs. The Engineer has also redesigned a drain line relocation to expedite demolition of SSFs 7-10 while remaining outside of the footprint for SSFs 15-18.

Onsite, the Contractor continued installation of the 60-inch and 72-inch raw water conveyance pipelines for the new WTP as well as work on drainage and plant water lines. Modifications to the Backwash Facility are nearly complete and will be brought online in the next quarter.

The Commission is providing regular construction updates at <https://www.newwestparish.com>.

Supply Chain: The Contractor provided a letter to the Commission in March 2025 indicating that new tariffs may result in price increases and extended material lead times.

Schedule: The MassDEP Administrative Consent Order dated April 22, 2024 requires the plant to be online by September 30, 2028. Current Contract substantial completion is August 30, 2028 and final completion is November 24, 2028. Data generated from regulatory approvals and sampling plans will allow the Engineer and Contractor to advance their evaluations of the impacts that the management of PCB materials may have on the project cost and schedule.

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*Backfilling 60-inch and 72-inch raw water pipes with flowable fill (L) and final backfill (R)
(Engineer photo January 2026)*



Installation of new drain (Engineer photo February 2026)

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*New WTP footprint and location of SSFs 7-10 and 15-18
(SWSC drone photo 03/10/2026)*



*Construction of 60-inch and 72-inch steel raw water piping
(SWSC drone photo 03/10/2026)*



42-inch Raw Water Transmission Main, Energy Dissipating Valve, and Equalization Tank

Project Purpose: This project is for the repair of the 42-inch bypass raw water conveyance PCCP pipeline and construction of a new energy dissipating facility (EDV) at the outlet. The pipeline and EDV facility were damaged in 2019. The pipeline and EDV facility provide a critical route for raw water to bypass the Cobble Mountain Hydroelectric Station (CMHS), the Intake Reservoir, and the 72-inch Intake Tunnel. The EDV facility provides necessary energy dissipation for the 42-inch outlet, which conveys high pressure water (approximately 200 psi) directly from Cobble Mountain Reservoir. The project also includes a new raw water equalization (EQ) tank that will be used in the future to directly provide raw water to the new water treatment plant. The EQ tank will eventually replace the need to use the sedimentation basin for raw water storage.

With the 42-inch raw water transmission bypass out of service, the Commission currently relies on the Diversion Gates (the low-level dam outlet) to release water from the Cobble Mountain Reservoir when the CMHS is offline for routine maintenance. This outlet was not designed to operate as a regular intake and is not operable remotely. With the 42-inch bypass out of service, there is currently no bypass for the 72-inch Tunnel.

Returning this route to service will allow the Commission to take the CMHS and 72-inch Intake Tunnel offline for maintenance when needed while maintaining raw water supply to the current and future water treatment plants.

Delivery Approach: Design-Bid-Build.

Progress: On the pipeline, the Contractor completed remaining work at pipe connections and manways and installed pressure monitoring system along the pipeline. The Engineer completed a full inspection of the pipeline and identified additional minor repairs to be completed before startup of the pipeline.

At the EDV Facility, the Contractor is nearing completion of the structure and is completing electrical and HVAC work, final concrete work, and site cleanup. This work included pouring the sloped concrete floor in the EQ tank; completing ductwork; installing the corrosion protection system, installing ladders, railings, and roof hatches; completing the transformer pad; building the spillway walls and placing stone; installing electrical conduit, wiring, light fixtures, and electrical equipment; and completing the retaining wall. Work also included pressure and leak testing piping and valves at the facility, final thrust blocks and pipe work, backfilling the upstream pipe, and road grading and construction. The Contractor is preparing for pipeline and facility startup and is coordinating trainings and vendor visits.

Supply Chain: The knife gate valves and Mokveld valves had long lead times and were critical path items for the project.

Schedule: The Contractor requested and was granted a time extension that established a substantial completion date of March 2026 (extended from December 2025) and a final completion date of May 2026. The Contractor is currently projecting a delay to startup.

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EDV facility site (SWSC drone photo, 03/10/2026)



EDV facility site (SWSC drone photo, 03/10/2026)

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EDV Chamber interior (Engineer photo, 03/20/2026)



Equalization Tank interior (Engineer photo, 03/19/2025)

Cobble Mountain Hydroelectric Station Improvements for Primary Raw Water Conveyance

Project Purpose: The Cobble Mountain Hydroelectric Station (CMHS) is an essential component of the Commission's raw water conveyance system. As part of the primary raw water conveyance route, the CMHS delivers water from the Broome Gate Intake down to the Intake Reservoir while generating power by using the 450-foot elevation difference between the two reservoirs. This project will identify alternatives for upgrades to hydropower generation in response to failing infrastructure at the facility. The existing 1930 turbines are mostly beyond the end of their operational lives, with only one out of the original three turbines currently operational on a limited schedule to limit wear and reduce the risk of failure.

When the CMHS is offline for maintenance, the remaining routes for raw water conveyance are the 42-inch bypass (currently out of service) and the low-level Diversion Gates, which are not designed for regular operation. Restoring the CMHS conveyance route is vital to establishing reliable raw water conveyance for the Commission.

Delivery Approach: Design-Bid-Build with some Design-Build improvements for items such as the turbine and generator unit and associated structural foundation improvements.

Progress: The Engineer continued to design the rehabilitation of the Unit #3 turbine and generator, which also includes electrical updates, replacement of the inlet butterfly valves and actuators, lining the penstock to Unit #3, and rehabilitating the existing bridge crane. Bid packages for the valves, penstock, and bridge crane are currently out to bid, and the prequalification process for the turbine/generator rehabilitation vendor is currently underway. The Engineer is also working to finalize the design package for the turbine/generator unit for bidding, and the 60% design for the plant electrical work is anticipated in April. Work is being managed by the Contract Operator. Improvements are projected to be completed in 2028 but the schedule is subject to change due to project dependencies between the multiple bid packages.

Supply Chain: Supply chain impacts on this project are currently unknown but long lead times are anticipated for turbine manufacturers and valve manufacturers (estimated 2-year lead time).

Schedule: This project is currently projected to be completed in 2028, but this date is subject to change as design progresses.



CMHS Existing Turbine #1



Engineering Capital Projects Schedule

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