

Quarter 3 Update: July – September 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 continues to work 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 slated for demolition and located in the project footprint. The Project Engineer completed testing the PCB contaminated materials located onsite and at other facilities and is evaluating alternatives for disposal. The Contractor completed demolition of the filters not impacted by PCBs. The Contractor also 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.
- **42-inch Raw Water Transmission Main / Energy Dissipating Valve (EDV) and Equalization Tank Facility** – After startup of the 42-inch pipeline and EDV facility in June, flow irregularities were observed in the EDV facility and the facility was taken offline. The Project Engineer is working with the Contractor and vendors to diagnose the issue. The 30-day operational period, Substantial Completion, and Final Completion for the facility have been delayed.
- **Cobble Mountain Hydroelectric Station Improvements for Primary Raw Water Conveyance** – The Engineer continued to design the rehabilitation of the Unit #3 turbine and generator. No bids were received for the bridge crane project, and no qualified bids were received for the penstocks project. Meetings were held and the project team decided to combine the various packages into one rehabilitation project. Updated prequalification packages for turbine/generator rehabilitation, valves, penstocks, and bridge crane will be issued in Quarter 4. The Engineer has continued to progress the design package for the turbine/generator unit and the plant electrical work. The Plant Operator is managing the work. The schedule has been delayed due to bidding, and will be updated once bidding is completed.

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/.

DBP Compliance

MassDEP & EPA Quarterly Update

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 continues to work 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. Over this quarter the Project Engineer completed the testing associated with the sampling and analysis plans (SAPs) submitted last quarter. The Engineer evaluated alternatives for disposal. The Engineer has also prepared release abatement measure (RAM) plans for submission to MassDEP, which are required to remove and dispose the materials.

The Contractor completed demolition of the filters non impacted by PCBs and 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.

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.



Demolition of SSFs 7-10
(SWSC drone photo 09/08/2026)



Demolition of SSFs 7-10
(Engineer photo 09/08/2026)



Construction of 60-inch and 72-inch steel raw water piping
(SWSC drone photo 09/22/2026)



Pouring concrete encasement for 60-inch and 72-inch steel raw water piping
(Engineer photo 09/29/2026)

DBP Compliance

MassDEP & EPA Quarterly Update

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: During final testing of the 42-inch pipeline and EDV facility in June, flow tests indicated that two of the three Mokveld valves did not meet the expected flow capacity. The facility was taken offline for evaluation and the Project Engineer is currently working with the Contractor and equipment vendors to diagnose the issue.

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 30-day operational period, Substantial Completion, and Final Completion for the facility have been delayed while the Project Team investigates the flow restriction.

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, with the 100% design package for the unit work completed during this period. The 60% electrical design package is anticipated in Quarter 4. The penstock bids received in the last quarter were evaluated and it was determined that no qualified bids were received. Only one bid was received for the valve replacement project due to an issue with bidders receiving DCAM certifications, and the single bid was determined to not be a responsible or responsive bid. The crane package was re-bid, and no bids were received. Following this series of events, the Commission met with the Design Engineer and Project Manager and the decision was made to combine all bid packages. A request for prequalification packages will be issued in Quarter 4.

The Plant Operator is managing the work. An updated schedule for the improvements will be developed once the new bid package is issued.



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 was previously projected to be completed in 2028, but this date will be extended due to issues during bidding.



Engineering Capital Projects Schedule

EPA Quarterly Update – September 2026

