

**PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF WEST VIRGINIA
CHARLESTON**

At a session of the PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF WEST VIRGINIA
in the City of Charleston on the 9th day of June 2026.

CASE NO. 23-0027-W-DU

CITY OF PIEDMONT MUNICIPAL WATER DEPARTMENT

Staff Petition Asking the Commission to Establish
a Proceeding to Determine Whether the City of
Piedmont is a Distressed or Failing Utility.

COMMISSION ORDER

The Commission finds that the City of Piedmont Municipal Water Department (Piedmont) has substantially satisfied the requirements established by the Commission in this proceeding and has demonstrated sufficient operational and infrastructure improvements to conclude this matter. Accordingly, Piedmont is relieved of any further reporting obligations in this docket, and this case is hereby closed.

BACKGROUND

On January 12, 2023, Commission Staff filed a Petition asserting that (1) Piedmont lacked the technical and managerial ability sufficient to operate the utility on an ongoing basis, (2) had engineering deficiencies, and (3) that a proceeding should be opened to determine if Piedmont is a distressed utility pursuant to W. Va. Code § 24-2H-6(a).¹ An evidentiary hearing was held on May 25, 2023.

The Commission entered an Order on July 28, 2023, finding that Piedmont was not a failing or distressed utility.² The Commission required Piedmont to repair its non-functioning telemetry, repair the water leak in the line supplying water from Westernport, Maryland, fully fund its Cash Working Capital Reserve (CWCR) account, resolve the potential debt owed to the West Virginia State Auditor's Office, and secure a long-term solution to its water supply.³

¹ Petition at p. 3.

² Commission Order, July 28, 2023, at p. 1.

³ Id. at pp. 7-8.

The Commission also ordered Piedmont to file monthly reports on or before the tenth day of each month regarding the status of its efforts to obtain a long-term solution for its water supply and to provide any written contracts related to those efforts.⁴

Piedmont filed monthly status reports detailing corrective actions, infrastructure improvements, and efforts to secure a reliable, long-term water supply. The Commission also entered additional Orders addressing Piedmont's continuing efforts and related operational concerns.⁵

On May 8, 2026, Piedmont filed its most recent status report. Piedmont reported that its well system has been operating as planned, that it continues to monitor well system operating costs, and that it has begun seeking funding for a second backup well. Piedmont also reported that fencing at the water plant has been completed.⁶

DISCUSSION

The Commission finds that Piedmont has made substantial progress in addressing the concerns that gave rise to this proceeding and the Commission's prior Orders. The record demonstrates that Piedmont undertook meaningful corrective actions to improve the reliability and operation of its water system and is continuing to pursue additional infrastructure improvements and long-term planning measures.

The Commission specifically recognizes Piedmont's efforts to secure and implement a functioning well system, address operational deficiencies identified during the proceeding, improve facility infrastructure, and pursue funding opportunities for future system enhancements. The Commission further acknowledges the considerable work performed by Piedmont's officials, operators, and personnel throughout this matter.

Importantly, the Commission finds that Piedmont has transitioned from addressing immediate corrective concerns to engaging in proactive operational planning and system improvement efforts. The Commission is encouraged by Piedmont's continued attention to infrastructure needs and its commitment to

⁴ Id. at p. 8.

⁵ Commission Order, April 12, 2024; see also Commission Order, December 12, 2023.

⁶ City of Piedmont May 2026 Report.

maintaining adequate, efficient, safe, and reasonable utility service for its customers.

Based upon the totality of the record and Piedmont's continued progress, the Commission concludes that continued monthly reporting requirements are no longer necessary and that this proceeding should be closed.

The Commission acknowledges and commends the substantial efforts undertaken by Piedmont, its officials, employees, and operators to address the concerns identified in this proceeding and improve the operation and reliability of its water system.

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. On July 28, 2023, the Commission entered an Order finding that Piedmont was not a failing or distressed utility, and requiring Piedmont to address several operational and infrastructure concerns.

2. The Commission required Piedmont to file periodic status reports regarding corrective actions, infrastructure improvements, and efforts to secure a long-term water supply solution.

3. Piedmont has filed regular status reports throughout the pendency of this proceeding documenting corrective measures and operational improvements.

4. Piedmont's most recent status report indicates that its well system is operating as planned and that Piedmont continues to pursue additional infrastructure improvements and funding opportunities.⁷

5. Piedmont has demonstrated substantial progress in addressing the concerns identified by the Commission in its prior Orders.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. Piedmont has substantially satisfied the requirements established in the Commission's July 28, 2023, Order.

2. It is reasonable and appropriate to relieve Piedmont of further reporting obligations in this docket and close this proceeding.

⁷ Id.

ORDER

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that the City of Piedmont Municipal Water Department is relieved of further reporting obligations in this docket.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that this case shall be removed from the Commission's active docket and closed.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Executive Secretary of the Commission serve a copy of this Order by electronic service on all parties of record who have filed an e-service agreement, and by United States First Class Mail on all parties of record who have not filed an e-service agreement and on Commission Staff by hand delivery.

A True Copy, Teste,



Karen Buckley, Executive Secretary

RAB/bj
230027ch

Public Service Commission of West Virginia

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June 9, 2026

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RE: Case No. 23-0027-W-DU
City of Piedmont Municipal Water Department

Ms. Prezioso and Gentlemen:

Enclosed is a copy of a Commission Order issued today in the above-styled proceeding. **Please note all other parties have agreed to receive this order via electronic notification.**

Documents submitted to the Public Service Commission of West Virginia may be 1) uploaded to its public website, 2) subject to public disclosure under the West Virginia Freedom of Information Act, and/or 3) subject to disclosure under the West Virginia Open Governmental Proceedings Act. Do not submit personal information with your filings. The Commission is not responsible for confidential or personal information included with your submission. A list of personal information is available here: http://www.psc.state.wv.us/Privacy_Policy/WhatisPII.htm

If you have provided an email address you will automatically receive notifications as documents are filed in this proceeding. The email notifications allow recipients to view a document within an hour from the time the filing is processed. If you have not provided your email address, please send an email to caseinfo@psc.state.wv.us and state the case number in the email subject field. **You are encouraged to file an Electronic Mail Agreement which allows the commission to serve all orders issued in this matter via electronic notification.**

Sincerely,


Karen Buckley
Executive Secretary

KB/al
Enc.