

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY COUNCIL
COMMITTEE REPORT
2019 Legislative Session

Reference No.: CR-064-2019

Draft No.: 2

Committee: Transportation, Infrastructure, Energy and Environment Committee

Date: 9/26/2019

Action: FAV(A)

REPORT:

Committee Vote: Favorable with Amendments, 4-0-1 (In Favor: Council Members Taveras, Dernoga, Glaros and Turner; Abstained: Council Member Anderson-Walker)

The TIEE Committee convened on September 12, 2019 and September 26, 2019 to review CR-64-2019 which proposes the adoption of the Prince George's County 2018 Water and Sewer Plan. CR-64 provides a comprehensive update of the 2008 Plan and Water & Sewer Category maps. The Committee's review began with an overview of the proposed changes provided by the Department of Permitting, Inspections and Enforcement (DPIE). The discussion included comments from the staffs of the County Health Department, the MNCPPC and the WSSC.

Shirley Anthony Branch of DPIE guided the discussion using an indexed summary of proposed changes to the Plan. Ms. Branch also discussed proposed amendments to Appendices 2-1 and 2-2 of the Plan (and water & sewer maps) needed to update the lists of: Category 6 designations inside the sewer envelope; Category 3 designations outside the sewer envelope, and; adjustments to the boundaries of the sewer envelope to achieve compliance with General Plan 2035. The Committee approved these amendments.

A particular area of focus for the Committee was Chapter 6, which describes the procedures for adopting and amending the Plan. Proposed changes include:

Section 6.3 - Legislative Amendment Process - Establishes DPIE as the managing agency of the Water and Sewer Plan and amendments processes, and the frequency in which this process is held, increasing the number of "cycles" from 3 per year (April, August and December) to 4 per year (January, April, July and October).

Section 6.3.1 - Referral and Review Process During the initial review of category change applications, reviewing agencies are given 15 days (a decrease from 30 days) to review and comment to DPIE on applications submitted.

Section 6.4 - Administrative Amendment Process Allows applicants meeting the criteria to file on a continuous basis, provided the application is complete for the month in which it is filed.

Applications will still be grouped when possible.

Section 6.5.1 - Waiver Criteria – Connection to Public (Community) Water and Sewer Further clarifies and identifies individual residential properties and minor subdivisions that meet the criteria to be eligible for a waiver. Connections may not exceed 200 feet, up from 100 feet in the previous code. This will limit the number of residential properties eligible for waivers and increase those requiring an extension via a category change.

Section 6.5.2 Waiver Criteria – Use of Interim Individual Well and Septic Systems Further clarifies and identifies individual residential properties and minor subdivisions that meet the criteria to be served by well and septic systems. Connection to public systems must exceed 200 feet, up from 100 feet in the previous code.

Appendix 6-2 Fee Schedule restructures and increases fees associated with the plan amendment processes, maps and special requests of services. The fees have remained consistent since the adoption of the 2008 Water and Sewer Plan and should be reconsidered for increase. All fees are the same regardless of location. Fees are waived for public entities i.e., Federal, State, County and Municipal projects.

The Committee’s review included a discussion of “Dormant Category 3” where an approved preliminary plan of subdivision expires for undeveloped property in Category 3. In this instance, the property is considered to revert to Category 4 and will require renewal of Category 3 through the Administrative Amendment process. The Committee also discussed concerns related to the transfer of approved water & sewer capacity from one property to another. WSSC staff explained the process by which overall capacity is monitored, as well as the evaluation of each development proposal during the category change process.

After the discussion, the Committee voted favorably on CR-64-2019 with amendments proposed by staff by a vote of 4-0-1.