

WRRDA 7001 Submission
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Proposal Name: Southern and Eastern Kentucky Water Quality Improvement Project

Submission Date: 09/19/2016

Proposal ID Number: af5f8c43-4409-44de-b826-032df2800c4b

Purpose of Proposal: The terrain in these Appalachian counties can be very steep, which means that homes often do not have enough flat land to allow for a traditional septic system. In addition, soil conditions are rocky or nonporous, which prevents percolation. Unfortunately, our poverty level is high, and low-income homeowners simply do not have thousands of dollars to invest in septic systems, even if they have sufficient, suitable land. As a result, our region's water quality is threatened by untreated or undertreated wastewater from failing septic systems or "straight pipes" from homes into nearby ditches or waterways. The 531 program allows for funding of water and waste water treatment plants as well as sewer line extensions across a 29 county region in southern and eastern Kentucky. Despite progress in expanding the region's wastewater infrastructure, the need for the Section 531 program continues. The obstacle of geography, in particular, endures. Our office regularly receives inquiries from local governments and public utilities that want to keep their local waterways clean and their citizens healthy, but they need financial and technical assistance for costly, challenging wastewater treatment infrastructure. We also hear from low-income homeowners who are desperate to replace failing septic systems and would benefit from access to public sewer service. The Section 531 program has been an irreplaceable tool in Southern and Eastern Kentucky's PRIDE initiative to improve water quality by expanding sanitary sewer service across our rocky, steep terrain. Eastern Kentucky PRIDE, which spearheads the PRIDE initiative, proposes the Section 531 program be continued by increasing its Federal project authorization from \$40 million to \$80 million . This modification is justified by the unmet need for adequate sanitary sewer services in the program area.

1. Administrative Details

Proposal Name: Southern and Eastern Kentucky Water Quality Improvement Project

by Agency: Eastern Kentucky PRIDE, Inc.

Locations: KY

Date Submitted: 09/19/2016

Confirmation Number: af5f8c43-4409-44de-b826-032df2800c4b

Supporting Documents

File Name	Date Uploaded
Burnside letter.pdf	09/19/2016
Corp of engineers letter.pdf	09/19/2016
City of Pikeville Letter of Support.pdf	09/19/2016

2. Provide the name of the primary sponsor and all non-Federal interests that have contributed or are expected to contribute toward the non-Federal share of the proposed feasibility study or modification.

Sponsor	Letter of Support
Eastern Kentucky PRIDE, Inc.(Primary)	Attached

3. State if this proposal is for a feasibility study, a modification to an authorized USACE feasibility study or a modification to an authorized USACE project. If it is a proposal for a modification, provide the authorized water resources development feasibility study or project name.

Modification to an Authorized USACE Project : Southern and Eastern Kentucky Environmental Infrastructure (Section 531) program

4. Clearly articulate the specific project purpose(s) of the proposed study or modification. Demonstrate that the proposal is related to USACE mission and authorities and specifically address why additional or new authorization is needed.

The terrain in these Appalachian counties can be very steep, which means that homes often do not have enough flat land to allow for a traditional septic system. In addition, soil conditions are rocky or nonporous, which prevents percolation. Unfortunately, our poverty level is high, and low-income homeowners simply do not have thousands of dollars to invest in septic systems, even if they have sufficient, suitable land. As a result, our region's water quality is threatened by untreated or undertreated wastewater from failing septic systems or "straight pipes" from homes into nearby ditches or waterways. The 531 program allows for funding of water and waste water treatment plants as well as sewer line extensions across a 29 county region in southern and eastern Kentucky. Despite progress in expanding the region's wastewater infrastructure, the need for the Section 531 program continues. The obstacle of geography, in particular, endures. Our office regularly receives inquiries from local governments and public utilities that want to keep their local waterways clean and their citizens healthy, but they need financial and technical assistance for costly, challenging wastewater treatment infrastructure. We also hear from low-income homeowners who are desperate to replace failing septic systems and would benefit from access to public sewer service. The Section 531 program has been an irreplaceable tool in Southern and Eastern Kentucky's PRIDE initiative to improve water quality by expanding sanitary sewer service across our rocky, steep terrain. Eastern Kentucky PRIDE, which spearheads the PRIDE initiative, proposes the Section 531 program be continued by increasing its Federal project authorization from \$40 million to \$80 million . This modification is justified by the unmet need for adequate sanitary sewer services in the program area.

5. To the extent practicable, provide an estimate of the total cost, and the Federal and non-Federal share of those costs, of the proposed study and, separately, an estimate of the cost of construction or modification.

	Federal	Non-Federal	Total
Study	\$80,000,000	\$20,000,000	\$100,000,000
Construction	\$40,000,000	\$10,000,000	\$50,000,000

Explanation (if necessary)

6. To the extent practicable, describe the anticipated monetary and nonmonetary benefits of the proposal including benefits to the protection of human life and property; improvement to transportation; the national economy; the environment; or the national security interests of the United States.

The Section 531 program was created as part of the PRIDE initiative, which improves water quality, resolves solid waste problems and promotes environmental education in 29 counties in Appalachian Kentucky. In the case of the Section 531 program, Eastern Kentucky PRIDE aids in selection of projects because we are familiar with the need for wastewater infrastructure across the region. The 25% match is provided not by Eastern Kentucky PRIDE, but rather by the local agency that is awarded Section 531 funds. The terrain in the 29 county region can be very steep, which means that homes often do not have enough flat land to allow for a traditional septic system. In addition, soil conditions are rocky or nonporous, which prevents percolation. Unfortunately, our poverty level is high, and low-income homeowners simply do not have thousands of dollars to invest in septic systems, even if they have sufficient, suitable land. As a result, our region's water quality is threatened by untreated or undertreated wastewater from failing septic systems or "straight pipes" from homes into nearby ditches or waterways. When the PRIDE initiative began in 1997, 36,000 straight pipes were identified across our original 38-county service area (which is slightly larger than the area served by the Section 531 program). Thanks to the Section 531 program and other federal funds marshalled through the PRIDE initiative, 22,000 homes have gained access to public sewer service since 1997. The Section 531 program has been critical to this success because the program facilitates design and construction of innovative wastewater treatment systems that responded to the region's unique geographic challenges.

7. Does local support exist? If 'Yes', describe the local support for the proposal.

Yes

Local Support Description

Local agencies who are granted funding through the 531 program are required to provide the 25% match requirement. I have attached a couple of letters of support to show the support of some of the counties in the region.

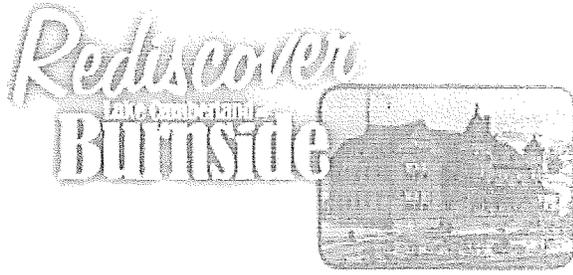
8. Does the primary sponsor named in (2.) above have the financial ability to provide for the required cost share?

Yes

Additional Proposal Information

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Burnside letter.pdf



City of Burnside
7929 U.S. 27
Burnside, KY 42519
PH: 606-561-4113

September 19, 2016

Ms. Tammie Wilson
President/CEO
Eastern Kentucky PRIDE, Inc.
2292 S. Hwy. 27
Somerset, KY 42501

Dear Ms. Wilson:

I am writing in support of PRIDE's proposal to increase the authorization limit for the Southern and Eastern Kentucky Environmental Infrastructure (Section 531) program. This program has proven to be a useful component of the PRIDE initiative, which has helped the City of Burnside and so many communities across our region improve our water quality.

I was pleased to learn that the Section 531 program could continue. The City of Burnside has benefitted from this program in the past, and we certainly would seek Section 531 funding in the future.

The City of Burnside's need for wastewater treatment infrastructure is great and ongoing. As you know, our community sits on steep, rocky terrain on the banks of Lake Cumberland. Septic systems do not work well here, and under-treated sewage would seep easily through limestone into Lake Cumberland.

Thankfully, about a decade ago, we were able to construct a wastewater collection system — which included expensive and complicated low-pressure components — and connect to a neighboring city's treatment plant. That was a massive project that required a complicated funding mix, and the Section 531 funds were a key part of the puzzle. The representatives from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Nashville District were great partners on that project, and we would welcome the chance to work with them again.

In summary, the City of Burnside has an ongoing need for funding and technical assistance to provide the wastewater treatment infrastructure that is essential to our geography. We would like to see the Section 531 program continue so we may use it again and so other communities in our region can, too.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ron Jones', written over a circular stamp or seal.

Ron Jones, Mayor
City of Burnside, Kentucky

Primary Sponsor Letter of Support

(As uploaded)

Corp of engineers letter.pdf



PRIDE - *Eastern Kentucky Pride, Inc.*
Personal Responsibility in a Desirable Environment

The Center for Rural Development
2292 South Highway 27
Somerset, Kentucky 42501
Telephone: (606) 677-6150
Facsimile: (606) 677-6055

September 19, 2016

Headquarters
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
441 G Street NW
Washington, DC 20314-1000

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of Eastern Kentucky PRIDE, Inc., I respectfully request your consideration of our proposal to modify the project authorization for the Southern and Eastern Kentucky Environmental Infrastructure (Section 531) program to increase its Federal project authorization from \$40 million to \$80 million for the purpose of fulfilling unmet need for sanitary wastewater treatment infrastructure.

The Section 531 program was created as part of the PRIDE initiative, which improves water quality, resolves solid waste problems and promotes environmental education in Appalachian Kentucky. Eastern Kentucky PRIDE is the nonprofit organization that steers the initiative, but communities do the work.

In the case of the Section 531 program, Eastern Kentucky PRIDE aids in selection of projects because we are familiar with the need for wastewater infrastructure across the region. The 25% match is provided not by Eastern Kentucky PRIDE, but rather by the local agency that is awarded Section 531 funds.

The need that was the basis for the Section 531 program's creation still exists in the 29 counties of Southern and Eastern Kentucky. The terrain in these Appalachian counties can be very steep, which means that homes often do not have enough flat land to allow for a traditional septic system. In addition, soil conditions are rocky or nonporous, which prevents percolation. Unfortunately, our poverty level is high, and low-income homeowners simply do not have thousands of dollars to invest in septic systems, even if they have sufficient, suitable land.

As a result, our region's water quality is threatened by untreated or undertreated wastewater from failing septic systems or "straight pipes" from homes into nearby ditches or waterways. When the PRIDE initiative began in 1997, 36,000 straight pipes were identified across our original 38-county service area (which is slightly larger than the area served by the Section 531 program).

Thanks to the Section 531 program and other federal funds marshalled through the PRIDE initiative, 22,000 homes have gained access to public sewer service since 1997. The Section 531 program has been critical to this success because the program facilitates design and construction of innovative wastewater treatment systems that responded to the region's unique geographic challenges. Also, the program has provided the final "boost" needed to jumpstart projects that had maximized traditional funding sources. This is important because wastewater projects here can be extremely expensive when costly methods — such as low-pressure lines and grinder pumps — are required to transport wastewater up and down the region's mountainous terrain.



Eastern Kentucky PRIDE
September 19, 2016
Page 2

Despite progress in expanding the region's wastewater infrastructure, the need for the Section 531 program continues. The obstacle of geography, in particular, endures. Our office regularly receives inquiries from local governments and public utilities that want to keep their local waterways clean and their citizens healthy, but they need financial and technical assistance for costly, challenging wastewater treatment infrastructure. We also hear from low-income homeowners who are desperate to replace failing septic systems and would benefit from access to public sewer service.

In summary, the Section 531 program has been an irreplaceable tool in Southern and Eastern Kentucky's PRIDE initiative to improve water quality by expanding sanitary sewer service across our rocky, steep terrain. Eastern Kentucky PRIDE, which spearheads the PRIDE initiative, proposes the Section 531 program be continued by increasing its Federal project authorization. This modification is justified by the unmet need for adequate sanitary sewer services in the program area.

I appreciate your consideration of this proposal. If you have any questions, please call me at 606-677-6150.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tammie Wilson".

Tammie Wilson
President/CEO
Eastern Kentucky PRIDE, Inc.

Additional Proposal Information

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City of Pikeville Letter of Support.pdf



CITY OF PIKEVILLE

243 Main Street
Pikeville, Kentucky 41501
(606) 437-5100
Fax Number (606) 437-5136

James A. Carter
Mayor

Donovan Blackburn
City Manager

September 19, 2016

Tammie Wilson
President/CEO
Eastern Kentucky PRIDE, Inc.
2292 S. Hwy. 27
Somerset, KY 42501

Dear Ms. Wilson:

I am writing to express support for Eastern Kentucky PRIDE's proposal to increase the federal authorization for the Southern and Eastern Kentucky Environmental Infrastructure program, which is also called the Section 531 program. This program is an important tool in achieving the goal we share in the PRIDE region: improving our water quality.

The City of Pikeville has benefitted from the Section 531 program in the past, and our need for the program still exists. Section 531 funds have allowed our city to expand our wastewater treatment facilities and serve more customers, and our goal is to continue that progress, for the health of our citizens and environment.

Due to the steep terrain and soil conditions in our area, onsite wastewater treatment is simply impossible for many homeowners. As a result, public sewer service is the most effective wastewater treatment method. Unfortunately, it is very expensive to build the infrastructure required to meet this demand and overcome the challenging terrain.

The Section 531 funds have provided a much-needed boost to our rural community's costly, but vital wastewater treatment projects. In addition, the Huntington District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers have been excellent partners in our Section 531 projects, and we welcome the opportunity to work with them on new projects.

We at the City of Pikeville are excited to hear that the Section 531 program may continue, if the PRIDE proposal is approved. We enthusiastically support the proposal. If I can provide any assistance in the application process, please call me.

Sincerely,

Donovan Blackburn, City Manager
City of Pikeville, Kentucky

