

[print](#)

County water project must be redesigned

by KATIE DUNN • Staff Writer

11.20.12 - 12:18 am

WISE — A county Public Service Authority project that would provide another route for transporting water to customers must now be renegotiated.

Earlier this year, the PSA's board of directors agreed to move forward with a project that would build a pump station near the Carfax community, install some main water lines and construct a new 200,000-gallon water tank atop Bull Run Mountain. The authority received a \$1.76 million loan and \$1.36 million grant from the federal Rural Development agency to fund the effort.

Initial plans called for having the new pump station transport water up Bull Run Mountain to the new water tank. Water would then be transported off the mountain and into the Coeburn area and dispersed throughout the water system.

But Darrell Stapleton, Thompson & Litton vice president of engineering, said last Tuesday that transporting water up Bull Run Mountain via U.S. Alternate 58 is no longer feasible. He told the board that there is no power through there and it would cost more than \$500,000 to bring power to the new pump station.

Alternate routes are now being discussed with Rural Development and the Virginia Department of Health, Stapleton told the board. He said he hoped to have more information about these by the board's December meeting.

When asked last Wednesday whether this adjustment might impact the overall project cost, Stapleton said he hoped that any needed changes would not trigger an increase.

PSA Director Danny Buchanan, in an interview earlier this year, said the county currently has just one route for transporting treated water to customers. Wise County pulls its water from the Clinch River and has a regional water treatment plant off Alternate 58 near Carfax. Buchanan said that if a water line along this route fails, no alternative route exists. The Bull Run project would provide that alternate route, he said.

© thecoalfieldprogress.com 2012