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Title:

Comments: I am writing to object to the Pedlar River North Vegetation Project #58783.

I am the Director of Engineering at KDC/One - Lynchburg. We are a contract manufacturer of over-the-counter drugs, soaps, hand sanitizers and other cosmetic and personal care items. Some incarnation of our company has been at our Robins Road location in Lynchburg for over 100 years. We employ about 700 people from Lynchburg and the surrounding area.

Our facility consumes something on the order of 25,000-35,000 gallons of water from the Pedlar Reservoir per day in our ultra-purified water system. We take this water and put it through either a reverse osmosis process or a de-ionization process and then use it to make things like hand sanitizer, lotion, soap and other personal care products that people use on their skin. We very closely monitor the conductivity of the incoming reservoir water and we must purify it to conform with USP and FDA standards for water used in our type of products.

We are very happy with the water quality from Pedlar. Usually once or twice a year there is a pipe break or a low-water event at Pedlar that causes the water authority to switch us to James River water. This is always a very trying event for our facility. Filters and large media bottles that last us a week or two normally suddenly have to be switched out daily. The conductivity in all our systems skyrockets and we literally work around the clock to be able to handle it. During one such incident in 2019 we saw a 749% increase in water and filtration costs for a month of James River water. A pipe break this summer caused another period of drastic cost and labor output that we're still settling the bills for.

If this project moves forward we are likely to see significant and constant increases in conductivity from the reservoir. These increases will put a huge fiscal burden on our company, because water is a key part of everything we make and the cost of water is a key part of our sales process. It will significantly impact our ability to be competitive and the likelihood that we would expand our operations in Lynchburg.

We would notice this change, because we have a need to watch it closely. I would also ask that you consider the impact to all the users of Pedlar Reservoir water who might not notice but who would still be impacted. Clean water is unmistakably crucial to all the people in this community. We don't see a clear benefit to this project that offsets the potential risk to water quality and to the general ecosystem that we live in.

We respectfully ask you to reconsider this project, and thank you for your time.

Sean Hayslett

Director of Engineering

KDC/One - Lynchburg