High public resistance to the proposed centralized sewer extension project in 2001, resulted in the PSD removing our communities from PSC Case # 01-0163. The West Fork Co-op then organized as a non-profit, public benefit, corporation and incorporated in October 2003 to provide an affordable decentralized sewer system for Arlington, Glen Falls, Gore, and Dawmont.

*On July 16, 2003, adopted by unanimous vote, the Greater Harrison PSD Board does not oppose the formation of an onsite management entity to provide sewer service for Arlington, Glen Falls, Dawmont and Gore.*

**Current Situation**

Yes, we are finally going to get a sewer system that will be affordable and alleviate the health concerns and stench that comes with untreated sewage. With Congressional support from US Senator’s Capito and Manchin, as well as US Congressman McKinley, the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) has agreed to provide 75% of the total project costs in federal grant funds and partner with the West Fork Co-op to build a Septic Tank Effluent Pump (STEP) sewer system for Arlington, Glen Falls, Dawmont and Gore. The WV Infrastructure Council has approved the 25% loan/grant matching funds needed for the West Fork Co-op to proceed with the USACE.

**Project to be completed in two Phases**

The US Army Corps of Engineers has committed to providing 75% funding of our total project cost, but just not all the funds in one fiscal year, so we will build this project in two phases. **(Phase 1)** will construct the initial effluent treatment facility in Arlington (designed to serve all four communities) and hook up 130 Arlington customers. This will utilize the $2.3 million dollar grant awarded by the USACE, plus state loan/grant matching funds of $1.7 million. **(Phase II)** funding will connect the additional 190 STEP units needed for Glen Falls, Dawmont and Gore and add additional treatment facility pods as needed. The US Army Corps of Engineers will include the West Fork Co-op (Phase II) on their FY 20 Work Plan and announce their funds later this year after the new federal budget is approved for the Pittsburgh District of the USACE.
Cost Summary Analysis

Not only is the decentralized STEP sewer system less expensive, ($1.5 million less in terms of construction costs), compared to a centralized sewer extension to Clarksburg, it will be considerably less expensive ($70,000 a year less) to Operate and Maintain the STEP system. These lower costs result in approximately $20.00 less per month on each customer’s bill.

Easements and Rights of Way

An easement/right of way will be needed by property owners to place the new STEP system on property occupied by the owner or a tenant. *(STEP is included in the project - no cost to you).* A small diameter service lateral will take the effluent from your tank and send it to the treatment facility in Arlington. Your old septic tank will be removed or filled and the drain-field space on your property will no longer be required. You have the right to have a written appraisal of the value of the easement sought by the West Fork Co-op to install, operate and maintain your new septic system. We ask that you consider waiving this right and consider the new tank and system at no cost as just compensation and consider and convey the easement to the Co-op for $1.00.

Septic Tank Effluent Pump (STEP)

The new Septic/Interceptor Tank will require 110 volt service available on the exterior of your home/building to run the small bullet style ½ hp water pump that is down in the new septic tank that will send your effluent to the central treatment facility. *There will be no drainfield on your property.* A control panel will be outside your home or business and this pump will run a few times a day (2-3 minutes at a time) and will add approximately $1.50 per month to the average homeowner’s electric bill. **Please Note:** Nothing needs to be done at this time with the electrical service. A project representative will assess what is needed at each home/business.

What will it cost you each month?

WV Public Service Commission (PSC) Rules will require each new customer to sign a user’s agreement for the sewer service and our plan is to bill for sewer on the water bill. Those that use minimum water (2,000 gallons a month or less) will have a **minimum sewer bill of approximately $27.00** per month added on to your water bill. On a 3,400 gallon a month water bill, your sewer bill would be $46.75. In comparison, GHPSD now charges $70.26 for sewer on a 3,400 gallon monthly water bill. Loan payments, operation and maintenance costs and a required reserve fund is used by our accountant to propose this Co-op tariff for approval by the WV PSC.
Project Schedule (Tentative)

**Phase 1.** We will need to obtain 80% of the Right of Ways and Easements in Arlington by December of this year. With the Public Service Commission Certificate Case proceeding and with no issues by May of 2020, we would advertise and open construction bids in June of 2020.

**Phase II.** We must wait for the new federal budget approval and then Pittsburgh will announce (most likely) in December of this year what the funds will be for their FY 20 Work Plan. Basically, Phase II construction should be a year from the start of Phase 1, but Phase II could move along ahead of schedule. Having the Rights-of-Ways signed and recorded will allow Phase II to move even quicker.

Why a Co-op and not a Public Service District

Back in 2002 and 2003, the county PSD was not interested in providing two different types of sewer service that would result in two rates and some customers paying less than others. The state legislature and the WV PSC rules discouraged forming a new PSD, and discussions with the City of Clarksburg for sewer service stopped with the inclusion of annexation in the discussion. The county PSD was okay with an additional Responsible Management Entity being formed in the county to provide sewer for Arlington, Glen Falls, Dawmont and Gore. Community members began working with the National Onsite Demonstration Program (later the National Environmental Service Center), WVU College of Law, and the West Fork Co-op was incorporated.

West Fork Co-op Membership

To be operated on a cooperative basis for the mutual benefit of its members or patrons of the West Fork Co-op’s sewer service, any person owning real property in the communities of Arlington, Glen Falls, Gore and Dawmont shall be eligible for membership. Members shall be entitled to one vote on each matter submitted to a vote and the fee for membership is $20.00.

Monthly Meetings are public

Progress meetings will be held on the first Tuesday of each month at 5:30 PM and everyone is welcome. This is one project, *with the same service for all*, it’s just being built in two phases. Meetings will be announced in the newspaper and on the WF Co-op Facebook Page @ [https://www.facebook.com/West-Fork-Co-op](https://www.facebook.com/West-Fork-Co-op). We will alternate monthly meetings as much as possible, but have no place available at this time in Glen Falls.
An Easement/Right of Way would be needed to install and maintain your new septic tank, control panel and the small diameter lateral collection line.

This is what the treatment facility in Arlington will look like, along with a small control building. Chain-link fence and LED night lights will be in place, with access using Goldenrod Lane. Comments and/or questions may be sent to:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>West Fork Co-op.</th>
<th>Phone: 304-622-5664</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>59 Goldenrod Lane</td>
<td>Email: <a href="mailto:support@westforkcoop.org">support@westforkcoop.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clarksburg WV 26301</td>
<td>Web: westforkcoop.org</td>
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