

to the system; provided that such lower charge shall continue in effect for a period no longer than fifteen (15) years.

(b) *Extensions.*—Whenever there is in existence a privately owned water supply or sewerage system which in the judgment of the Commission is unfit, as a whole or in part, for incorporation with the Commission's system, the Commission may disregard the existence of said system or unfit part thereof and extend its system to serve the area tributary to the existing system or unfit part thereof, and all the provisions of this subtitle relating to systems constructed by the Commission shall apply to said extension. Any municipality whose system is acquired by the Commission is hereby authorized to use the amount paid to it for said system for the purchase or redemption of any bonds or debt which may be outstanding against the same, or the Commission may as part of the purchase price of said system, assume the payment of any such bonds. The Commission shall not purchase any existing water mains, sewers or systems, in whole or in part, which are improperly constructed or are not of sufficient capacity or were constructed without proper authority from the State Department of Health since the passage of the Act requiring the same.

(c) *Joint ownership or construction.*—Whenever the Commission deems that it would serve the best interests of any area in which the Commission operates a water or sewerage system to join with any municipality operating a water or sewerage system in an adjacent or nearby area in the construction or operation of any water production, collection, storage or transmission system; or the construction of any sewerage, collection, transmission, or treatment system; the Commission may, subject to the approval of the County Commissioners of Wicomico County, enter into an agreement with such municipality for the joint ownership of any property and the joint construction and/or operation of any of the above systems; and the Commission may, also subject to the approval of the County Commissioners of Wicomico County issue bonds or other evidences of indebtedness to provide funds for the purchase and/or construction of any such systems, which bonds will be issued in the same manner and under the same conditions and under the same guarantee by the County Commissioners of Wicomico County as provided in Section 518 of this subtitle.

#### 530. Construction of other systems.

Whenever a municipality or the property owners or residents of any locality shall hereafter desire a water supply or sewerage system, or part thereof, to be first constructed in that municipality or locality, a petition for such service shall be first filed with the Commission, if the Commission should deny said petition such municipality or persons may build and operate said system at its own expense, but said system shall be constructed in accordance with plans and specifications prepared under the direction of the Commission but at the cost of the proposed owner, and the construction thereof shall be done under the supervision of said Commission and its maintenance and operation shall be under the supervision of said Commission and its maintenance and operation shall be under the general control of the Commission; and no such system or part thereof, or no water main, sewer, water purification or sewerage treatment plant, or no