

**DOCKET NO. D-1985-072-4**

**DELAWARE RIVER BASIN COMMISSION**

**Bensalem Racing Association & Keystone Turf Club, Inc.  
Groundwater Withdrawal  
Bensalem Township, Bucks County, Pennsylvania**

**PROCEEDINGS**

This docket is issued in response to an Application submitted by Marathon Engineering & Environmental Services, Inc. on behalf of Bensalem Racing Association & Keystone Turf Club, Inc. (BRA&KTCI) to the Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC or Commission) on October 24, 2014 (Application), for a renewal and approval of an existing allocation of groundwater and review of a groundwater withdrawal project. This docket was previously approved by the Commission on June 26, 1996.

The Application was reviewed for continuation and approval under Section 3.8 of the Delaware River Basin *Compact*. The Bucks County Planning Commission has been notified of pending action on this docket. A public hearing on this project was held by the DRBC on March 10, 2015.

**A. DESCRIPTION**

**1. Purpose.** The purpose of this docket is to approve the renewal of an existing supply of groundwater for irrigation of the docket holder's Philadelphia Parx Race Track from existing Wells Nos. 1, 2, 3 and 4. The total allocation of groundwater will remain 10.93 million gallons per month (mgm). BRA&KTCI is not requesting an increase in groundwater withdrawal allocation from that contained in its prior approval.

**2. Location.** The project wells are located in the Delaware River Watershed, in Bensalem Township, Bucks County, Pennsylvania. Project wells are completed in the Wissahickon Schist Formation. The Delaware River near the project site is designated by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) as supporting Warm Water Fishes (WWF) and Migratory Fishes (MF).

Specific location information has been withheld for security reasons.

**3. Service area.** The project withdrawals will be used to supply water to the docket holder's horse racetrack irrigation system only.

**4. Physical features.**

**a. Design criteria.** The project wells irrigate 38.5 acres of track and infield turf. Potable water at the Philadelphia Parx Race Track is served by Bucks County Water and Sewer Authority (BCWSA), which was most recently approved by DRBC Docket No. D-2012-021 CP-1 on December 5, 2012.

The average and maximum demand is 0.176 million gallons per day (mgd) and 0.353 mgd, respectively. The docket holder does not estimate an increase in average and maximum demand over the next ten years. The allocation of 10.93 million gallons per month (mgm) should be sufficient to meet the future demands of the BRA&KTCI irrigation system.

Groundwater is pumped from Wells Nos. 1, 2, 3 and 4 to a storage pond and then pumped from the pond as needed for irrigation. The pond is used for temporary storage, which also collects storm water from the site.

**b. Facilities.** The docket holder's existing wells have the following characteristics:

WELL NO.	DEPTH (FEET)	PUMP CAPACITY (GPM)	YEAR DRILLED
1	382	25	1997
2	112	110	Unknown
3	300	40	1985
4	300	70	1985

The wells are metered.

The project facilities are above the 100-year flood elevation.

The irrigation system is presently not interconnected with any other distribution system.

**c. Other.** Wastewater from the site is conveyed to the Philadelphia Water Department (PWD) Northeast sewage treatment facility most recently approved by DRBC Docket No. D-1970-052 CP on July 26, 1972. The PADEP received an application on February 27, 2012 for NPDES Permit No. PA0026689 and it is currently pending. The treatment facility has adequate capacity to receive wastewater from the project.

**B. FINDINGS**

The DRBC estimates that the project withdrawals, used for the purpose of irrigation, result in a consumptive use of 90 percent of the total water use. The DRBC definition

of consumptive use is defined in Article 5.5.1.D. of the *Administrative Manual – Part III – Basin Regulations – Water Supply Charges*.

The project does not conflict with the Comprehensive Plan and is designed to prevent substantial adverse impact on the water resources related environment, while sustaining the current and future water uses and development of the water resources of the Basin.

### **C. DECISION**

I. Effective on the approval date for Docket No. D-1985-072-4 below, Docket No. D-1985-072 RENEWAL 2 is terminated and replaced by Docket No. D-1985-072-4.

II. The project and appurtenant facilities as described in the Section A “Physical features” are approved pursuant to Section 3.8 of the *Compact*, subject to the following conditions:

a. Docket approval is subject to all conditions, requirements, and limitations imposed by the PADEP, and such conditions, requirements, and limitations are incorporated herein, unless they are less stringent than the Commission’s.

b. The wells and operational records shall be available at all times for inspection by the DRBC.

c. The wells shall be operated at all times to comply with the requirements of the *Water Code* and *Water Quality Regulations* of the DRBC.

d. During any month, the withdrawal from the wells shall not exceed 10.93 mgm. The wells shall not be pumped above the maximum instantaneous rates and monthly allocations as indicated below:

WELL NO.	INSTANTANEOUS RATE (GPM)	MONTHLY ALLOCATION (MILLION GALLONS)
1	25	1.116
2	110	4.91
3	40	1.786
4	70	3.125

e. If possible, the wells shall be equipped with a readily accessible capped port and drop pipe so that water levels may be measured under all conditions.

f. The project withdrawals shall be metered with an automatic continuous recording device that measures to within 5 percent of actual flow. An exception to the 5 percent performance standard, but no greater than 10 percent, may be granted if maintenance of the 5 percent performance is not technically feasible or economically practicable. A record of daily withdrawals shall be maintained, and monthly totals shall be reported annually by June 30, to the PADEP. Withdrawal records shall be available at any time to the Commission if requested by the Executive Director.

g. The docket holder shall continue to implement its Water Conservation Plan as approved by PADEP, and shall report to the PADEP on the actions taken pursuant to this program and the impact of those actions as requested by the PADEP.

h. The docket holder shall incorporate and implement reasonable conservation practices and measures consistent with efficient utilization of water resources.

i. No new water service connections shall be made to the premises connected to sewerage systems which are not in compliance with all applicable effluent limits contained in State permits and the *Water Quality Regulations* of the Commission.

j. Nothing herein shall be construed to exempt the docket holder from obtaining all necessary permits and/or approvals from other State, Federal or local government agencies having jurisdiction over this project.

k. The docket holder is permitted to provide the water approved in this docket to the areas included in Section A.3. Area Served of this permit. Any expansion beyond those included in Section A.3. Area Served is subject to DRBC review and approval in accordance with Section 3.8 of the *Compact*.

l. Unless an extension is requested and approved by the Commission in advance, in accordance with paragraph 11 of the Commission's Project Review Fee schedule (Resolution No. 2009-2), the docket holder is responsible for timely submittal of a docket renewal application on the appropriate DRBC application form at least 12 months in advance of the docket expiration date set forth below. The docket holder will be subject to late charges in the event of untimely submittal of its renewal application, whether or not DRBC issues a reminder notice in advance of the deadline or the docket holder receives such notice. In the event that a timely and complete application for renewal has been submitted and the DRBC is unable, through no fault of the docket holder, to reissue the docket before the expiration date below (or the later date established by an extension that has been timely requested and approved), the terms and conditions of the current docket will remain fully effective and enforceable against the docket holder pending the grant or denial of the application for docket approval.

m. The issuance of this docket approval shall not create any private or proprietary rights in the water of the Basin, and the Commission reserves the rights to amend, alter or rescind any actions taken hereunder in order to insure the proper control, use and management of the water resources of the Basin.

n. If the monitoring required herein, or any other data or information demonstrates that the operation of this project significantly affects or interferes with any domestic or other existing uses of ground or surface water, or if the docket holder receives a complaint by any existing ground or surface water users within the zone of influence of the withdrawal, the docket holder shall immediately notify the Executive Director of any complaints by any ground or surface users within the zone of influence of the withdrawal, and unless excused by the Executive Director, shall investigate such complaints. The docket holder should direct phone call notifications of potential well or surface water interference or complaints of interference to the DRBC Project Review Section at 609-883-9500, extension 216. Oral notification must always be followed up in writing directed to the Executive Director. In addition, the docket holder shall provide written notification to all potentially impacted users of wells or surface water supplies of the docket holder's responsibilities under this condition. Any ground or surface water user which is substantially adversely affected, rendered dry or otherwise diminished as a result of the docket holder's project withdrawal, shall be repaired, replaced or otherwise mitigated at the expense of the docket holder. A report of investigation and/or mitigation plan prepared by a hydrologist shall be submitted to the Executive Director as soon as practicable. The Executive Director shall make the final determination regarding the validity of such complaints, the scope or sufficiency of such investigations, and the extent of appropriate mitigation measures, if required.

o. The Executive Director may modify or suspend this approval or any condition thereof, or require mitigating measures pending additional review, if in the Executive Director's judgment such modification or suspension is required to protect the water resources of the Basin.

p. For the duration of any drought emergency declared by either Pennsylvania or the Commission, water service or use by the docket holder pursuant to this approval shall be subject to the prohibition of those nonessential uses specified by the Governor of Pennsylvania, the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Council, PADEP, or the Commonwealth Drought Coordinator, to the extent that they may be applicable, and to any other emergency resolutions or orders adopted hereafter by the Commission.

q. Any person who objects to a docket decision by the Commission may request a hearing in accordance with Article 6 of the *Rules of Practice and Procedure*. In accordance with Section 15.1(p) of the *Delaware River Basin Compact*, cases and controversies arising under the *Compact* are reviewable in the United States district courts.

**BY THE COMMISSION**

**APPROVAL DATE: March 11, 2015**

**EXPIRATION DATE: March 11, 2025**