

DOCKET NO. D-2013-012 CP-1

DELAWARE RIVER BASIN COMMISSION

**Schuylkill County Municipal Authority
Indian Run Water Filtration Plant
Branch Township, Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania**

PROCEEDINGS

This docket is issued in response to an Application submitted to the Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC or Commission) by Schuylkill County Municipal Authority (SCMA or docket holder) on September 5, 2013 (Application), for approval of the docket holder's existing Indian Run water filtration plant (WFP) and its related discharge. National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit No. PA0062821 for this facility was issued by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) on December 5, 2012, effective January 1, 2013.

The Application was reviewed for inclusion of the project in the Comprehensive Plan and approval under Section 3.8 of the *Delaware River Basin Compact*. The Schuylkill County Planning Commission has been notified of pending action. A public hearing on this project was held by the DRBC on March 11, 2014.

A. DESCRIPTION

- 1. Purpose.** The purpose of this docket is to approve the docket holder's existing 0.187 million gallons per day (mgd) WFP and its related discharge.
- 2. Location.** The WFP will continue to discharge treated effluent to the West Branch Schuylkill River at River Mile 92.47 – 117.75 – 4.67 (Delaware River – Schuylkill River – West Branch Schuylkill River) via Outfall No. 001, in branch Township, Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania as follows:

OUTFALL NO.	LATITUDE (N)	LONGITUDE (W)
001	40° 39' 35.2"	76° 13' 52.15"

- 3. Area Served.** The docket holder's WFP is one of three facilities that supplies drinking water to a total of fifteen (15) cities, townships, and boroughs in Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania as described in Docket No. D-90-49 CP-4. Water treated by the WFP is withdrawn from the India Run Reservoir as well as Wells Nos. 1 and 5 (formerly 1 and 2). Each of these

water sources is described in Docket No. D-90-49 CP-4, which was approved by the Commission on May 6, 2009. For the purpose of defining the Area Served, Section B (Type of Discharge) and D (Service Area) of the docket holder's Application are incorporated herein by reference, to the extent consistent with all other conditions contained in the DECISION Section of this docket.

4. Physical Features.

a. Design Criteria. The docket holder will continue to operate its existing 0.187 mgd WFP.

b. Facilities. The WFP consists of a chemical feed chamber, an inline static mixer, four (4) clarifiers, four (4) filters, and two (2) decanting basins. All water is treated with carbon, potassium permanganate, lime, alum, caustic soda, chlorine, polyphosphate, and a coagulant aid. Potable water is pumped through a clearwell to the Sharp Mountain storage tanks prior to distribution to customers. A sludge conditioner is added to the treated backwash prior to its entry into the decanting basins. Supernatant is then recirculated into the plant and basin overflow discharges to the West Branch Schuylkill River.

The project facilities are not located in the 100-year floodplain.

Wasted sludge will continue to be hauled off-site by a licensed hauler for disposal at a (State-approved) facility.

c. Water withdrawals. The potable water supply in the project service area is supplied by the docket holder's distribution system, which was approved by the Commission on May 6, 2009 via Docket No. D-90-49 CP-4.

d. NPDES Permit / DRBC Docket. NPDES Permit No. PA0062821 was issued by the PADEP on December 5, 2012 (effective January 1, 2013) and includes final effluent limitations for the project discharge of 0.187 mgd to surface waters classified by the PADEP as a cold water, migratory fishery (CWF, MF). The following average monthly effluent limits are among those listed in the NPDES Permit and meet or are more stringent than the effluent requirements of the DRBC.

EFFLUENT TABLE A-1: DRBC Parameters Included in NPDES Permit

OUTFALL 001 (WFP)		
PARAMETER	LIMIT	MONITORING
pH (Standard Units)	6 to 9 at all times	As required by NPDES Permit
Total Suspended Solids	30 mg/l	As required by NPDES Permit

The requirements in EFFLUENT TABLE A-2 are not listed in the NPDES Permit, but are Commission basin-wide parameters that must be met as a condition of this docket approval. Commission staff have requested PADEP include these parameters in their next Permit. Monitoring shall begin April 1, 2014 for each parameter (See DECISION Condition II.d.).

EFFLUENT TABLE A-2: DRBC Parameters Not Included in NPDES Permit

OUTFALL 001 (WFP)		
PARAMETER	LIMIT	MONITORING
Total Dissolved Solids*	Monitor & Report	Quarterly
CBOD ₅ (at 20° C)	Monitor & Report	Quarterly
Ammonia Nitrogen	Monitor & Report	Quarterly

* See DECISION Condition II.n.

e. **Cost.** There are no construction costs associated with this WFP approval.

f. **Relationship to the Comprehensive Plan.** The docket holder's water supply system was included in the Comprehensive Plan upon approval of Docket No. D-71-173 CP on November 1, 1971. Revisions were made to the system following approval of Dockets Nos. D-79-33 CP, D-90-49 CP, D-90-49 CP (Revision 1), D-90-49 CP (Revision 2), and D-90-49 CP-4 on April 23, 1980, August 8, 1990, August 12, 1992, August 6, 1997, and May 6, 2009, respectively. Issuance of this docket will specifically include the 0.187 mgd Indian Run WFP in the Comprehensive Plan (See DECISION Condition I.).

B. FINDINGS

The purpose of this docket is to approve the docket holder's existing 0.187 mgd WFP and its related discharge.

At the docket holder's WFP discharge, the West Branch Schuylkill River has an estimated seven-day low flow with a recurrence interval of ten years (Q₇₋₁₀) of 6.32 mgd (9.78 cfs). The ratio of this low flow to the hydraulic design wastewater discharge from the 0.187 mgd Indian Run WFP is 34 to 1.

The nearest surface water intake of record for public water supply is located approximately 65 River Miles downstream of the docket holder's WFP on the Schuylkill River and is operated by the Pottstown Borough Authority.

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.

The effluent limits in the NPDES Permit are in compliance with Commission effluent quality requirements, where applicable.

The project is designed to produce a discharge meeting the effluent requirements as set forth in the Commission's *Water Quality Regulations (WQR)*.

C. DECISION

I. Effective on the approval date for Docket No. D-2013-012 CP-1 below, the project and the appurtenant facilities described in Section A “Physical Features” of this docket shall be added to the Comprehensive Plan.

II. The project and appurtenant facilities as described in Section A “Physical Features” of this docket 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 in its NPDES Permit, and such conditions, requirements, and limitations are incorporated herein, unless they are less stringent than the Commission’s.

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

c. The facility shall be operated at all times to comply with the requirements of the Commission’s *WQR*.

d. The docket holder shall comply with the requirements contained in the Effluent Tables in Section A.4.d. of this docket. The docket holder shall submit the required monitoring results directly to the DRBC Project Review Section. The monitoring results shall be submitted annually, absent any observed limit violations, by January 31. If a DRBC effluent limit is violated, the docket holder shall submit the result(s) to the DRBC within 30 days of the violation(s) and provide a written explanation that states the action(s) the docket holder has taken to correct the violation(s) and protect against any future violations.

e. Except as otherwise authorized by this docket, if the docket holder seeks relief from any limitation based upon a DRBC water quality standard or minimum treatment requirement, the docket holder shall apply for approval from the Executive Director or for a docket revision in accordance with Section 3.8 of the *Compact* and the *Rules of Practice and Procedure*.

f. 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.

g. The docket holder is permitted to treat and discharge wastewaters as set forth in the Area Served Section of this docket, which incorporates by reference Sections B (Type of Discharge) and D (Service Area) of the docket holder’s Application to the extent consistent with all other conditions of this DECISION Section.

h. The docket holder shall discharge wastewater in such a manner as to avoid injury or damage to fish or wildlife and shall avoid any injury to public or private property.

i. Nothing in this docket approval shall be construed as limiting the authority of DRBC to adopt and apply charges or other fees to this discharge or project.

j. The issuance of this docket approval shall not create any private or proprietary rights in the waters of the Basin, and the Commission reserves the right to amend, suspend or rescind the docket for cause, in order to ensure proper control, use and management of the water resources of the Basin.

k. 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.

l. 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.

m. 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.

n. The docket holder may request of the Executive Director in writing the substitution of specific conductance for TDS. The request should include information that supports the effluent specific correlation between TDS and specific conductance. Upon review, the Executive Director may modify the docket to allow the substitution of specific conductance for TDS monitoring.

o. The docket holder is prohibited from treating/pre-treating any hydraulic fracturing wastewater from sources in or out of the Basin at this time. Should the docket holder wish to treat/pre-treat hydraulic fracturing wastewater in the future, the docket holder will need to first apply to the Commission to renew this docket and be issued a revised docket allowing such treatment and an expanded service area. Failure to obtain this approval prior to treatment/pre-treatment will result in action by the Commission.

BY THE COMMISSION

DATE APPROVED: March 12, 2014

EXPIRATION DATE: December 31, 2017