

DOCKET NO. D-1988-023 CP-2

DELAWARE RIVER BASIN COMMISSION

**Robesonia-Wernersville Municipal Authority
Wastewater Treatment Plant
Heidelberg Township, Berks County, Pennsylvania**

PROCEEDINGS

This docket is issued in response to an Application submitted to the Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC or Commission) by SSM Group, Inc. on behalf of the Robesonia-Wernersville Municipal Authority (RWMA) on January 31, 2013 (Application), for review and renewal of the existing Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) and its related discharge. National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit No. PA0031062 for this project was approved by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) on January 31, 2009.

The Application was reviewed for continuation of the project in the Comprehensive Plan and approval under Section 3.8 of the *Delaware River Basin Compact*. The Berks County Planning Commission has been notified of pending action. A public hearing on this project was held by the DRBC on May 7, 2013.

A. DESCRIPTION

- 1. Purpose.** The purpose of this docket is to renew approval of the docket holder's existing 1.4 million gallons per day (mgd) WWTP and its related discharge.
- 2. Location.** The RWMA WWTP will continue to discharge treated effluent to Spring Creek at River Mile 92.47 – 76.8 – 10.4 – 5.4 (Delaware River - Schuylkill River - Tulpehocken Creek - Spring Creek), via Outfall No. 1, in Heidelberg Township, Berks County, Pennsylvania as follows:

OUTFALL NO.	LATITUDE (N)	LONGITUDE (W)
001	40° 20' 57"	76° 05' 06"

3. **Area Served** The RWMA WWTP will continue to serve areas in the Boroughs of Robesonia and Wernersville, and portions of the Townships of Heidelberg, Lower Heidelberg and South Heidelberg in Berks County, Pennsylvania.

For the purpose of defining the Area Served, sections 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 the existing 1.4 mgd RWMA WWTP.

b. **Facilities.** The existing WWTP receives wastewater flow by gravity, which then enters a headworks complex consisting of flow meters, a comminutor, an influent screening device, a wet well and a raw wastewater pump station. The flow is then piped to alum mixing tanks. From the alum tank, flow enters the two (2) primary clarifiers or settling tanks. Following primary clarification, wastewater flows by gravity to two (2) rows of baffled rotating biological contactor (RBC) units. The RBC units provide organics and nitrogen removal.

Effluent from the RBC units is again treated with alum and a polymer flocculant prior to sedimentation and filtration. Sedimentation is provided with two (2) final clarifiers, followed by filtration in two (2) package traveling bridge sand filter units. Filtration is utilized to remove fine suspended solids, which is necessary to achieve a high removal percentage of phosphorus. Following filtration, the wastewater enters a chlorine contact tank and flow meter prior to discharge to Spring Creek.

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

The RWMA has a permanent emergency generator on-site, which is owned and maintained by the RWMA to power the entire facility in the event of a power failure.

Wasted sludge will 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 provided by the Womelsdorf-Robesonia Joint Authority and private on-lot wells. The most recent DRBC approval was via Docket No. D-1998-023 CP-2 on March 11, 2009.

d. **NPDES Permit / DRBC Docket.** NPDES Permit No. PA0031062 was approved by the PADEP on January 31, 2009 and includes final effluent limitations for the project discharge of 1.4 mgd to surface waters classified by the PADEP as supporting both Cold Water Fishes and Trout Stock Fishes (CWF,TSF). 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 WWTP		
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
CBOD5	25mg/l (85% minimum removal*)	As required by NPDES permit
Ammonia Nitrogen (5-1 to 10-31) (11-1 to 4-30)	6 mg/l 18 mg/l	As required by NPDES permit
Fecal Coliform (5-1 to 9-30) (10-1 to 4-30)	200 colonies per 100 ml as a geo. avg. 2,000 colonies per 100 ml as a geo. avg.	As required by NPDES permit

* DRBC Requirement

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

OUTFALL 001 WWTP		
PARAMETER	LIMIT	MONITORING
Total Dissolved Solids*	Monitor and Report*	Quarterly **

* DRBC Requirement

** See DECISION Condition II.p.

The PADEP has required effluent limits for Phosphorous and Dissolved Oxygen at Outfall No. 001. The DRBC does not require effluent monitoring/limits outside of Special Protection Waters for these parameters.

e. Relationship to the Comprehensive Plan. The RWMA 0.6 mgd WWTP was included in the Comprehensive Plan upon approval of Docket No. D-1964-026 CP on June 17, 1964. The RWMA WWTP was expanded from 0.6 mgd to 1.4 mgd with the approval of Docket No. D-1988-023 CP on February 22, 1989. Issuance of this docket will continue the WWTP in the Comprehensive Plan.

B. FINDINGS

The purpose of this docket is to renew approval of the docket holder's existing 1.4 million gallons per day (mgd) WWTP and its related discharge.

At the project site, Spring Creek has an estimated seven-day low flow with a recurrence interval of ten years of 2.86 mgd (4.43 cfs). The ratio of this low flow to the average design wastewater discharge from the RWMA WWTP is 2.04 to 1.

The nearest public water supply of record located approximately 11 river miles downstream of the project discharge is operated by the Western Berks Water Authority, on the Tulpehocken Creek.

The nearest surface water intake of record for public water supply downstream of the project discharge is operated by the Western Berks Water Authority, located approximately 11 miles away.

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 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 *Water Quality Regulations (WQR)* of the DRBC.

C. DECISION

I. Effective on the approval date for Docket No. D-1988-023 CP-2 below:

a. The project described in Dockets Nos. D-1964-026 CP and D-1988-023 CP-1 are removed from the Comprehensive Plan to the extent that it is not included in Docket No. D-1988-023 CP-2; and

b. Dockets Nos. D-1964-026 CP-1 and D-1988-023 CP-1 are terminated and replaced by Docket No. D-1988-023 CP-2; and

c. 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. If at any time the receiving treatment plant proves unable to produce an effluent that is consistent with the requirements of this docket approval, no further connections shall be permitted until the deficiency is remedied.

g. 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.

h. 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.

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

j. No sewer service connections shall be made to newly constructed premises with plumbing fixtures and fittings that do not comply with water conservation performance standards contained in Resolution No. 88-2 (Revision 2).

k. 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.

l. 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.

m. 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.

n. 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.

o. 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.

p. 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.

q. 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: May 8, 2013

EXPIRATION DATE: May 8, 2018