

**DOCKET NO. D-2010-038 CP-2**

**DELAWARE RIVER BASIN COMMISSION**

**Department of the Navy  
Naval Facilities Engineering Command Mid-Atlantic  
Groundwater Treatment Plant  
Warminster Township, Bucks County, Pennsylvania**

**PROCEEDINGS**

This docket is issued in response to an Application submitted to the Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC or Commission) by H&S Environmental, Inc. on behalf of the Department of the Navy, Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) Mid-Atlantic on April 30, 2012 (Application), for renewal of the existing groundwater treatment plant (GWTP) and its related discharge. National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit No. PA0244325 for this project was previously approved by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) on April 14, 2008.

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 Bucks 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 the approval of the existing Department of the Navy NAVFAC Mid-Atlantic Warminster (Navy Warminster) GWTP and its related discharge. The existing GWTP will continue to treat an average annual flow of 0.187 million gallons per day (mgd) and has a hydraulic capacity of 0.216 mgd.

**2. Location.** The GWTP is located on Jacksonville Road (Pennsylvania Route 332) just north of its intersection with Street Road (Pennsylvania Route 132) in Warminster Township, Bucks County, Pennsylvania. The existing GWTP discharges to an unnamed tributary to the Little Neshaminy Creek, which is a tributary to the Little Neshaminy Creek, itself a tributary to the Neshaminy Creek. The GWTP discharges in Warwick Township, Bucks County, approximately one (1) mile away from the GWTP. The project discharge is located at River Mile 115.6 – 23.6 – 3.3 – 1.4 (Delaware River – Neshaminy Creek – Little Neshaminy Creek – UNT to Little Neshaminy Creek).

The project outfall is located in the Neshaminy Creek Watershed as follows:

OUTFALL NO.	LATITUDE (N)	LONGITUDE (W)
001	40° 13' 01"	75° 04' 28"

3. **Area Served.** The docket holder's GWTP will continue to treat groundwater pumped from 27 existing groundwater wells located on the property of the former Naval Air Warfare Center – Warminster located in Warminster Township, Bucks 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 existing Navy Warminster GWTP treats groundwater pumped from 27 existing groundwater wells at a total capacity of 150 gallons per minute (gpm), or 0.216 mgd. Effluent limits on the NPDES permit are based on an average annual flow of 187,000 gpd. The GWTP currently treats and discharges approximately 100,000 gpd.

b. **Facilities.** The GWTP treatment system consists of ion exchange, air stripping, and granular carbon absorption. Groundwater is pumped from 27 wells located in three (3) onsite areas, referred to as areas A, C, and D. Area A consists of a group of 15 wells with a total pumping capacity of 60 gpm (EW-A1, EW-A2, EW-A3, EW-A4, EW-A5, EW-A6, EW-A7, EW-A8, EW-A9, EW-A10, EW-A11, EW-A12, EW-A13, EW-A15, & EW-A19). Area C consists of a group of 4 (four) wells with a total pumping capacity of 50 gpm (EW-C18, EW-C19, EW-C20, & EW-C21). Area D consists of a group of 8 (eight) wells with a total pumping capacity of 40 gpm (EW-D1, EW-D2, EW-D3, EW-D4, EW-D5, EW-D6, EW-D7, & EW-D8). Currently, groundwater is not being pumped from area D; however, the wells in this area continue to be monitored.

The project facilities are not located in the 100-year flood hazard area.

Residuals from the groundwater treatment system will continue to be hauled off-site by a licensed hauler for disposal at a (State approved) facility.

c. **Water Withdrawals.** The groundwater treated at the site is pumped from 27 on-site wells that were previously approved by the Commission in Docket No. D-2010-038 CP-1, which was approved on December 8, 2011. The potable water supply in the project service area is provided by the Warminster Municipal Authority via DRBC Docket No. D-2000-019 CP-2, which was recently approved on March 7, 2012.

d. **NPDES Permit / DRBC Docket.** The NPDES Permit No. PA00244325, effective on April 14, 2008, includes final effluent limitations for the project discharge of 0.187 mgd to surface waters classified by the PADEP as a warm water fishery (WWF) and migratory fishery (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**

<b>OUTFALL 001 (Discharge to the UNT of Little Neshaminy Creek)</b>		
<b>PARAMETER</b>	<b>LIMIT</b>	<b>MONITORING</b>
pH (Standard Units)	6 to 9 at all times	As required in NPDES permit
Total Suspended Solids	30 mg/l	As required in NPDES permit

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

<b>OUTFALL 001 (Discharge to the UNT of Little Neshaminy Creek)</b>		
<b>PARAMETER</b>	<b>LIMIT</b>	<b>MONITORING</b>
Total Dissolved Solids*	1,000 mg/l	Monthly *

\* See Condition II.p. in the Decision Section

e. **Relationship to the Comprehensive Plan.** The DRBC included this project in the Comprehensive Plan on December 8, 2011 via Docket No. D-2010-038 CP-1.

## **B. FINDINGS**

The purpose of this docket is to renew the approval of the docket holder's existing 0.187 mgd GWTP. No modifications to the GWTP are proposed.

At the project site, the UNT to Little Neshaminy Creek has an estimated seven-day low flow with a recurrence interval of ten years of 0.04 mgd (0.06 cfs). The ratio of this low flow to the average design wastewater discharge from the 0.216 mgd GWTP is 5.4 to 1.

The nearest public water supply of record located approximately 20 river miles downstream of the project discharge is owned and operated by Aqua Pennsylvania, on the Neshaminy Creek.

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.

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-2010-038 CP-2 below:

a. The project described in Docket No. D-2010-038 CP-1 is removed from the Comprehensive Plan to the extent that it is not included in Docket No. D-2010-038 CP-2; and

b. Docket No. D-2010-038 CP-1 is terminated and replaced by Docket No. D-2010038 CP-2; and

c. The project and the appurtenant facilities described in Section A “Physical Features” of this docket shall be continued in 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 Table(s) 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 discharge of wastewater shall not increase the ambient temperatures of the receiving waters by more than 5°F until stream temperatures reach 50°F, nor by more than 2°F when stream temperatures are between 50°F and 58°F, nor shall such discharge result in stream temperatures exceeding 58°F. (Trout Waters only)

i. 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.

j. 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.

k. 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).

l. 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.

m. 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.

n. 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.

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. 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.

q. 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.

**BY THE COMMISSION**

**DATE APPROVED: May 8, 2013**

**EXPIRATION DATE: May 8, 2018**