

DOCKET NO. D-1991-009 CP-5

DELAWARE RIVER BASIN COMMISSION

**Joint Municipal Authority of Wyomissing Valley
Wastewater Treatment Plant
City of Reading, Berks County, Pennsylvania**

PROCEEDINGS

This docket is issued in response to an Application submitted to the Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC or Commission) by the Joint Municipal Authority of Wyomissing Valley (JMAWV or docket holder) on October 18, 2013 (Application) for renewal of the docket holder's existing wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) and its related discharge. National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit No. PA0026638 A-1 for this facility was issued by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) on February 7, 2013.

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 (Compact)*. The Berks County Planning Commission has been notified of pending action. A public hearing on this project was held by the DRBC on June 9, 2015.

A. DESCRIPTION

- 1. Purpose.** The purpose of this docket is to renew approval of the docket holder's existing 4.0 million gallon per day (mgd) WWTP and its related discharge. No modifications to the WWTP are proposed.
- 2. Location.** The project WWTP is located on Old Wyomissing Road, just east of its intersection with Parkview Road, in the City of Reading, Berks County, Pennsylvania. The WWTP will continue to discharge to Wyomissing Creek approximately 1,000 feet upstream of its confluence with the Schuylkill River, at River Mile 92.47 - 75.3 - 0.2 (Delaware River – Schuylkill River – Wyomissing Creek).

The project outfall is located in the Schuylkill River Watershed as follows:

OUTFALL NO.	LATITUDE (N)	LONGITUDE (W)
001	40° 19' 43"	75° 56' 53"

3. **Area Served.** The docket holder's WWTP will continue to receive wastewater flows from the Boroughs of West Reading, Wyomissing, Shillington and Mohnton, as well as portions of the Borough of Wyomissing Hills, Spring and Cumru Townships, and the City of Reading, all within Berks County, Pennsylvania.

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's WWTP will continue to utilize a trickling filter / activated sludge treatment process, followed by ultraviolet light (UV) disinfection and post-aeration. The WWTP is hydraulically designed to treat 4.0 mgd.

b. **Facilities.** The WWTP facilities consist of a grit removal chamber, a mechanical fine screen, two (2) primary settling tanks, two (2) trickling filters, an aeration tank, two (2) final settling tanks, a UV disinfection unit, and a post-aeration tank. Sludge handling facilities include an anaerobic digester, centrifuge, and dryer.

Prior facilities for the WWTP have been described in the following DRBC

Dockets:

DOCKET NO.	DRBC APPROVAL DATE
D-1968-163 CP-1	December 4, 1968
D-1991-009 CP-1	June 19, 1991
D-1991-009 CP-2	February 29, 2007
D-1991-009 CP-3	March 3, 2010
D-1991-009 CP-5	September 21, 2011

Several of the existing facilities are located in the flood hazard area (FEMA-designated 100-year flood zone). The facilities are located outside the floodway and are flood-proofed up to the flood hazard protection elevation (100-year flood elevation plus one foot).

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 provided by domestic groundwater wells and a surface water intake on the Ontelaunee Creek Reservoir owned and operated by the Reading Area Water Authority (RAWA). The surface

water withdrawal is described in detail in DRBC Docket No. D-2000-059 CP-2, approved on May 11, 2011.

d. **NPDES Permit / DRBC Docket.** PADEP issued NPDES Permit No. PA0026638 A-1 for the project discharge, on February 7, 2013, which includes final effluent limitations for the project discharge of 4.0 mgd to surface waters classified by the PADEP as cold water fishery (CWF). The following average monthly effluent limits are among those listed in the NPDES permit that meet or are more stringent than the effluent requirements of the DRBC.

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

OUTFALL 001 (Wyomissing Creek)		
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
CBOD (5-Day at 20° C)	20 mg/l (85% minimum removal)	As required by NPDES permit
Ammonia-Nitrogen		
5/01-10/31	3.0 mg/l	As required by NPDES permit
11/01-4/30	9.0 mg/l	
Fecal Coliform		
5/1 – 9/30	200 colonies per 100 ml	As required by NPDES permit
10/1 – 4/30	2,000 colonies per 100 ml	

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

OUTFALL 001 (Wyomissing Creek)		
PARAMETER	LIMIT	MONITORING
Total Dissolved Solids *	1,000 mg/l	Quarterly

* See DECISION Conditions II.p.

e. **Relationship to the Comprehensive Plan.** The WWTP was first added to the Comprehensive Plan by DRBC Docket Nos. D-1968-163 CP-1 on December 4, 1968, and modified via Docket Nos. D-1991-009 CP-1, D-1991-009 CP-2, D-1991-009 CP-3, and D-1991-009 CP-4 on June 19, 1991, February 29, 2007, March 3, 2010, and September 21, 2011, respectively. This docket (D-1991-009 CP-5 renews the WWTP approval and continues the WWTP in the Comprehensive Plan.

B. FINDINGS

The purpose of this docket is to renew the approval of the docket holder's existing 4.0 mgd WWTP.

The WWTP discharge to the Wyomissing Creek is approximately 1,000 feet upstream of its confluence with the Schuylkill River. At the project site, the Wyomissing Creek has a seven-day low flow with a recurrence interval of ten years (Q_{7-10} flow) of 2.55 mgd (3.96 cfs). The ratio of this low flow to the design waste water discharge from the 4.0 mgd (6.2 cfs) WWTP is

approximately 0.6 to 1. The Q_{7-10} flow in the Schuylkill River at the Reading City USGS Gage is approximately 136 mgd (211 cfs). The ratio of the Schuylkill River Q_{7-10} flow to the design waste water discharge from the WWTP is 34 to 1.

The nearest downstream surface water intake of record for public water supply is located approximately 18 miles downstream of the docket holder's WWTP on the Schuylkill River, and is owned and operated by the Pottstown Borough Water 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-1991-009 CP-5 below:

a. The project described in Docket No. D-1991-009 CP-4 is removed from the Comprehensive Plan to the extent it is not included in Docket No. 1991-009 CP-5; and

b. Docket No. D-1991-009 CP-4 is terminated and replaced by Docket No. D-1991-009 CP-5.

c. The project and the appurtenant facilities described in the Section A "Physical Features" of this docket shall be continued in the Comprehensive Plan.

II. The project and appurtenant facilities as described in the 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* and Flood Plain Regulations (*FPR*).

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 electronically to the DRBC Project Review Section via email aemr@drbc.state.nj.us on the **Annual Effluent Monitoring Report Form** located at this web address: <http://www.state.nj.us/drbc/programs/project/application/index.html>. 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 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.

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: June 10, 2015

EXPIRATION DATE: January 31, 2020