

**DOCKET NO. D-1992-073 CP-4**

**DELAWARE RIVER BASIN COMMISSION**

**Hamburg Municipal Authority  
Wastewater Treatment Plant  
Borough of Hamburg, Berks County, Pennsylvania**

**PROCEEDINGS**

This docket is issued in response to an Application submitted to the Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC or Commission) by Systems Design Engineering, Inc. on behalf of Hamburg Municipal Authority (docket holder) on October 21, 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. PA0021601 for this facility was issued by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) on October 30, 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 (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 1.5 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 Front Street, just west of the Schuylkill River, in the Borough of Hamburg, Berks County, Pennsylvania. The WWTP will continue to discharge to the Schuylkill River at River Mile 92.47 - 98.7 (Delaware River – Schuylkill River).

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

<b>OUTFALL NO.</b>	<b>LATITUDE (N)</b>	<b>LONGITUDE (W)</b>
001	40° 33' 7"	75° 59' 31"

- 3. Area Served.** The docket holder's WWTP will continue to receive wastewater flows from the Borough of Hamburg and portions of Windsor and Tilden Townships, all within Berks County, Pennsylvania, and the Borough of Port Clinton in Schuylkill County.

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 an oxidation treatment process, followed by chlorine contact disinfection and post-aeration. The WWTP is hydraulically designed to treat 1.5 mgd.

b. **Facilities.** The WWTP facilities consist of a dual train oxidation ditch, a fine bubble aeration tank, three (3) clarifiers, two (2) chlorine contact tanks, and a dechlorination/re-aeration tank. The system is designed with bypass piping to allow the dual train oxidation ditch and fine bubble aeration tanks to operate as separate units. Sludge handling consists of thickening and an aerobic digester.

Prior facilities for the WWTP have been described in the following dockets:

DOCKET NO.	DRBC APPROVAL DATE
D-1972-106 CP-1	November 8, 1972
D-1992-073 CP-1	February 17, 1993
D-1992-073 CP-2	March 1, 2006
D-1992-073 CP-3	July 14, 2010

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 local groundwater wells, groundwater wells and a surface water withdrawal from a reservoir off of Furnace Creek owned and operated by the docket holder, and the Blue Mountain Water Cooperative. The Blue Mountain Cooperative is described in detail in Docket No. D-1993-027-3, which is approved concurrently with this docket at the June 10, 2015 Commission hearing. The docket holder's withdrawals from groundwater wells and surface water are described in detail in DRBC Docket No. D-2012-022 CP-1, approved on December 5, 2012.

d. **NPDES Permit / DRBC Docket.** PADEP issued NPDES Permit No. PA0021601 for the project discharge, on February 7, 2013, which includes final effluent limitations for the project discharge of 1.5 mgd to surface waters classified by the PADEP as warm water fishery (WWF). 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**

<b>OUTFALL 001 (Schuylkill River)</b>		
<b>PARAMETER</b>	<b>LIMIT</b>	<b>MONITORING</b>
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)	25 mg/l (85% minimum removal)	As required by NPDES permit
Ammonia-Nitrogen	20 mg/l	As required by NPDES permit
Fecal Coliform		As required by NPDES permit
5/1 – 9/30	200 colonies per 100 ml	
10/1 – 4/30	2,000 colonies per 100 ml	

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

<b>OUTFALL 001 (Schuylkill River)</b>		
<b>PARAMETER</b>	<b>LIMIT</b>	<b>MONITORING</b>
Total Dissolved Solids *	1,000 mg/l	Quarterly

\* See DECISION Conditions II.p.

e. **Relationship to the Comprehensive Plan.** The existing WWTP was first added to the Comprehensive Plan by Docket No. D-1972-106 CP-1 on November 8, 1972, and modified/renewed via Docket Nos. D-1992-073 CP-1, D-1992-073 CP-2, and D-1992-073 CP-3 on February 17, 1993, March 6, 2006, and July 14, 2010, respectively. This docket (D-1992-073 CP-4) 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 1.5 mgd WWTP.

At the project site, the Schuylkill River has a seven-day low flow with a recurrence interval of ten years (Q<sub>7-10</sub> flow) of 54 mgd (83.5 cfs). The ratio of this low flow to the design waste water discharge from the 1.5 mgd (2.33 cfs) WWTP is approximately 36 to 1.

The nearest downstream surface water intake of record for public water supply is located approximately 40 miles downstream of the docket holder's WWTP on the Schuylkill River, and is owned and operated by the Pottstown 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-1992-073 CP-4 below:
  - a. The project described in Docket No. D-1992-073 CP-3 is removed from the Comprehensive Plan to the extent it is not included in Docket No. 1992-073 CP-4; and
  - b. Docket No. D-1992-073 CP-3 is terminated and replaced by Docket No. D-1992-073 CP-4.
  - 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](mailto: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: October 31, 2019**