

DOCKET NO. D-1999-033 CP-2

DELAWARE RIVER BASIN COMMISSION

**Northeast Schuylkill Joint Municipal Authority
Wastewater Treatment Plant
Rush 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 Systems Design Engineering, Inc. on behalf of the Northeast Schuylkill Joint Municipal Authority (NSJMA or docket holder) on May 31, 2013 (Application), for renewal of the docket holder's existing wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) and its discharge. National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit No. PA0063878 for this project was issued by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) on May 13, 2009, effective June 1, 2009. Renewal of the NPDES Permit is expected shortly.

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 Schuylkill County Planning Commission has been notified of pending action. A public hearing on this project was held by the DRBC on June 10, 2014.

A. DESCRIPTION

- 1. Purpose.** The purpose of this docket is to renew approval of the docket holder's existing 0.245 million gallons per day (mgd) WWTP and its discharge.
- 2. Location.** The WWTP will continue to discharge treated effluent to Pine Creek at River Mile 92.47 – 102.1 – 27.6 – 1.2 (Delaware River – Schuylkill River – Little Schuylkill River – Pine Creek) via Outfall No. 001, in Rush Township, Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania as follows:

OUTFALL NO.	LATITUDE (N)	LONGITUDE (W)
001	40° 49' 13"	76° 01' 10"

3. **Area Served.** The docket holder’s WWTP will continue to serve Rush, Ryan, and Delano Townships, Schuylkill 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 will continue to operate its existing 0.245 mgd WWTP.

b. **Facilities.** The WWTP consists of an equalization tank, three (3) extended aeration tanks with clarifiers, two (2) sludge thickening tanks, five (5) aerobic digester storage tanks, and an ultraviolet disinfection system.

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 individual on-lot wells.

d. **NPDES Permit / DRBC Docket.** NPDES Permit No. PA0063878 was approved by the PADEP on May 13, 2009 (effective June 1, 2009) and includes final effluent limitations for the project discharge of 0.245 mgd to surface waters classified by the PADEP as a cold water fishery (CWF). Renewal of the NPDES Permit is expected shortly. The following average monthly effluent limits are among those listed in the NPDES Permit, are expected to be renewed, 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
CBOD (5-Day at 20° C)	25 mg/l	As required by NPDES Permit
Ammonia Nitrogen (5-1 to 10-31)	8.5 mg/l	As required by NPDES Permit
Fecal Coliform (5-1 to 9-30)	200 colonies per 100 ml as a geo. avg.	As required by NPDES Permit
(10-1 to 4-30)	2000 colonies per 100 ml as a geo. avg.	

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 renewed

Permit. Monitoring shall begin July 1, 2014 for each parameter (See DECISION Condition II.d.).

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

OUTFALL 001 (WWTP)		
PARAMETER	LIMIT	MONITORING
Total Dissolved Solids	Monitor & Report *	Quarterly
Ammonia Nitrogen (11-1 to 4-30)	Monitor & Report	Monthly
CBOD (5-Day at 20° C) Influent	Monitor & Report	Concurrent with CBOD5 effluent sampling in NPDES Permit

* See DECISION Condition II.p.

e. **Cost.** There are no construction costs associated with this WWTP renewal.

f. **Relationship to the Comprehensive Plan.** The docket holder's existing 0.245 mgd WWTP was included in the Comprehensive Plan upon approval of Docket No. D-99-33 CP on October 27, 1999. Issuance of this docket will continue approval of the WWTP in the Comprehensive Plan (See DECISION Condition I.c.).

B. FINDINGS

The purpose of this docket is to renew approval of the docket holder's existing 0.245 mgd WWTP and its discharge.

At the docket holder's WWTP discharge, Pine Creek has an estimated seven-day low flow with a recurrence interval of ten years (Q_{7-10}) of 0.62 mgd (0.96 cfs). The ratio of this low flow to the hydraulic design wastewater discharge from the 0.245 mgd WWTP is 2.5 to 1.

The nearest surface water intake of record for public water supply is located approximately 74 River Miles downstream of the docket holder's WWTP 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-1999-033 CP-2 below:

a. The project described in Docket No. D-99-33 CP is removed from the Comprehensive Plan to the extent that it is not included in Docket No. D-1999-033 CP-2; and

b. Docket No. D-99-33 CP is terminated and replaced by Docket No. D-1999-033 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 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 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 11, 2014

EXPIRATION DATE: May 31, 2019