

DOCKET NO. D-1999-029 CP-3

DELAWARE RIVER BASIN COMMISSION

Discharge to a Tributary of Special Protection Waters

**Pennsylvania American Water Company
Pocono Country Place Wastewater Treatment Plant
Coolbaugh Township, Monroe County, Pennsylvania**

PROCEEDINGS

This docket is issued in response to an Application submitted to the Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC or Commission) by Pennsylvania American Water Company (PAWC or docket holder) on May 8, 2017 (Application) for renewal of a wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) and its discharge. The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) issued National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit No. PA0060097 for the project discharge on September 15, 2016.

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 Monroe County Planning Commission has been notified of pending action. A public hearing on this project was held by the DRBC on May 16, 2018.

A. DESCRIPTION

1. Purpose. The purpose of this docket is to renew approval of the docket holder's existing 1.25 million gallons per day (mgd) Pocono Country Place WWTP and its related discharge.

2. Location. The docket holder's WWTP is located on Lakeview Drive, just west of its intersection with Woodland Drive in Coolbaugh Township, Monroe County, Pennsylvania, upstream from F.E. Walter Reservoir and Pocono Lake. The WWTP will continue to discharge to Dresser Run just downstream of Lake Carobeth, which is tributary to East Branch Tobyhanna Creek, which is tributary to Tobyhanna Creek, which is tributary to the Lehigh River, at River Mile 183.7 – 84.1 – 24.5 – 1.7 – 0.5 (Delaware River - Lehigh River – Tobyhanna Creek – East Branch Tobyhanna Creek – Dresser Run), in the drainage area to the Lower Delaware Special Protection Waters (SPW) area.

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

OUTFALL NO.	LATITUDE (N)	LONGITUDE (W)
001	41 ° 11' 26"	75 ° 22' 19"

3. **Area Served.** The docket holder's WWTP will continue to serve the residential community of Pocono Country Place, located in Coolbaugh Township, Monroe 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 existing 1.25 mgd WWTP utilizes a sequencing batch reactor (SBR) treatment system and ultraviolet light (UV) disinfection.

b. **Facilities.** The WWTP facilities consist of a comminutor/channel monster, 3 parallel SBR units, an aerobic digester, 2 UV disinfection units, and a belt filter press for sludge dewatering.

The docket holder's WWTP discharges to waters classified as SPW and is required to have available standby power. The WWTP has 2 generators installed capable of providing standby power.

The docket holder's WWTP is required to be staffed 24 hours per day or have a remote alarm system that continuously monitors plant operations in accordance with the Commission's SPW requirements. The WWTP has a SCADA remote alarm system installed at the WWTP.

The docket holder has prepared and implemented an emergency management plan (EMP) for the existing WWTP in accordance with Commission SPW requirements.

The WWTP 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 of the docket holder's WWTP is provided by groundwater wells operated by the docket holder. The water withdrawal is described in detail in Docket No. 1998-016 CP-3, which was approved on July 13, 2011.

d. **Effluent Requirements.** EFFLUENT TABLES A-1 & A-2 below contain effluent requirements for DRBC parameters that must be met as a condition of this approval (See DECISION Condition C.II.d.). PADEP issued NPDES Permit No. PA0060097 on September 15, 2016 which includes final effluent limitations for the project discharge of 1.25 mgd to surface waters classified by

the PADEP as High Quality – Cold Water Fishery (HQ-CWF). 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 (Dresser Run)		
PARAMETER	LIMIT	MONITORING
pH (Standard Units)	6 to 9 at all times	As required by NPDES permit
Total Suspended Solids	20 mg/l	As required by NPDES permit
CBOD (5-Day at 20° C)	10 mg/l	As required by NPDES permit
Ammonia Nitrogen (5-1 to 10-31)	2.3 mg/l	As required by NPDES permit
(11-1 to 4-30)	7.0 mg/l	
Fecal Coliform (5-1 to 9-30)	200 col. per 100 ml as a geo. avg.	As required by NPDES permit
(10-1 to 4-30)	2000 col. per 100 ml as a geo. avg.	
Dissolved Oxygen	7.0 mg/l (minimum)	As required by NPDES permit
Total Phosphorous	1.0 mg/l	As required by NPDES permit
Total Nitrogen	Monitor & Report	As required by NPDES permit
Total Kjeldahl Nitrogen	Monitor & Report	As required by NPDES permit
Nitrate+Nitrite as Nitrogen	11.0 mg/l	As required by NPDES permit
Total Dissolved Solids*	1,000 mg/l	As required by NPDES permit

* See Condition C.II.r. in the Decision section

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

OUTFALL 001 (Dresser Run)		
PARAMETER	LIMIT	MONITORING
CBOD ₅ (5-Day at 20° C)	85 % minimum removal	Monthly

e. **Relationship to the Comprehensive Plan.** The docket holder's WWTP was added to the Comprehensive Plan by Docket No. D-1999-029 CP-1 on September 30, 2009. Issuance of this docket (D-1999-029 CP-3) continues approval of the WWTP in the Comprehensive Plan.

B. FINDINGS

The docket holder submitted an Application to renew approval of their 1.25 mgd Pocono Country Place WWTP. No modifications to the existing WWTP are proposed.

In 1992, the DRBC adopted Special Protection Waters (SPW) requirements, as part of the DRBC Water Quality Regulations (*WQR*), designed to protect existing high water quality in applicable areas of the Delaware River Basin. One hundred twenty miles of the Delaware River from Hancock, New York downstream to the Delaware Water Gap were classified by the DRBC as SPW. This stretch includes the sections of the river federally designated as "Wild and Scenic" in 1978 -- the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River and the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area -- as well as an eight-mile reach between Milrift and Milford, Pennsylvania which is not federally

designated. The SPW regulations apply to this 120-mile stretch of the river and its drainage area, known as the Upper/Middle Delaware River SPW area.

On July 16, 2008, the DRBC approved amendments to its *Water Quality Regulations (WQR)* that provide increased protection for waters that the Commission classifies as SPW. The portion of the Delaware River and its tributaries within the boundary of the Lower Delaware River Management Plan Area was approved for SPW designation. (Lower SPW)

The docket holder's WWTP discharges to the drainage area to the Lower Delaware River SPW. The docket holder's WWTP discharge is required to comply with the SPW requirements, as outlined in Article 3.10.3A.2. of the *WQR*.

Article 3.10.3A.2.e.1). and 2). of the Commission's *WQR* states that projects subject to review under Section 3.8 of the Compact that are located in the drainage area of SPW must submit for approval a Non-Point Source Pollution Control Plan (NPSPCP) that controls the new or increased non-point source loads generated within the portion of the docket holder's service area which is also located within the drainage area of SPW. The service area of the docket holder is located in the drainage area to SPW. Since this project does not entail additional construction and/or expansion of facilities or service area and there are no new or increased non-point source loads associated with this approval, the NPSPCP requirement is not applicable at this time. Accordingly, DECISION Condition C.II.o. has been included in this docket.

At the WWTP discharge location, Dresser Run has an estimated seven-day low flow with a recurrence interval of ten years (Q7-10) of less than 0.1 cubic feet per second (cfs) and therefore is classified by the Commission as an intermittent stream.

The nearest surface water intake of record for public water supply is located on the Lehigh River approximately 47 river miles downstream of the docket holder's WWTP discharge, and is operated by the City of Hazleton.

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 *WQR*.

C. DECISION

I. Effective on the approval date for Docket No. D-1999-029 CP-3 below:

a. The project described in Docket No. D-1999-029 CP-2 is removed from the Comprehensive Plan to the extent that it is not included in Docket No. D-1999-029 CP-3; and

b. Docket No. 1999-029 CP-2 is terminated and replaced by Docket No. D-1999-029 CP-3; and

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.

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/pr/info.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, wildlife, and/or other aquatic life 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. 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.

l. Prior to allowing connections from any new service areas or any new developments, the docket holder shall either submit and have approved by the Executive Director of the DRBC a NPSPCP in accordance with Section 3.10.3.A.2.e, or receive written confirmation from the Executive Director of the DRBC that the new service area is in compliance with a DRBC-approved NPSPCP.

m. The docket holder is responsible for timely submittal to the DRBC of a docket renewal application on the appropriate application form including the appropriate docket application filing fee (see 18 CFR 401.43) at least 6 months in advance of the docket expiration date set forth below. The docket holder will be subject to late filed renewal surcharges 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, 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 docket holder shall be subject to applicable DRBC regulatory program fees, in accordance with duly adopted DRBC resolutions and/or regulations (see 18 CFR 401.43).

o. This approval is transferable by request to the DRBC Executive Director provided that the project purpose and area served approved by the Commission in this docket will not be materially altered because of the change in project ownership. The request shall be submitted on the appropriate form and be accompanied by the appropriate fee (see 18 CFR 401.43).

p. The docket holder shall request a name change of the entity to which this approval is issued if the name of the entity to which this approval is issued changes its name. The request for name change shall be submitted on the appropriate form and be accompanied by the appropriate fee (see 18 CFR 401.43).

q. 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.

r. 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.

s. 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.

t. Prior to the docket holder initiating any substantial alterations or additions to the existing WWTP as defined in Section 3.10.3A2.a.16) of the Commission's *WQR*, an application must be submitted and approved by the Commission. Such an application shall be submitted prior to final design to ensure that the Commission can provide the docket holder with draft effluent limitations for SPW specific parameters as guidance for design as to not require duplication of work or cause a substantial expenditure of public funds without Commission approval. The docket holder is encouraged to contact the Commission staff during the planning stages to identify the potential effluent limitations required to meet the no measurable change parameters under SPW.

BY THE COMMISSION

DATE APPROVED:

EXPIRATION DATE: September 30, 2026