

DOCKET NO. D-2005-002-2

DELAWARE RIVER BASIN COMMISSION

Discharge to the Drainage Area to Special Protection Waters

**Cold Spring Cottages, LLC
Wastewater Treatment Plant
Town of Thompson, Sullivan County, New York**

PROCEEDINGS

This docket is issued in response to an Application submitted to the Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC or Commission) by Stantec Consulting Services Inc. on behalf of the Cold Spring Cottages, LLC (docket holder) on January 27, 2014 (Application), for renewal of the docket holder's existing wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) and its related discharge. State Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (SPDES) renewal Permit No. NY0096067 for this facility was issued by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) on July 9, 2010.

The Application was reviewed for approval under Section 3.8 of the *Delaware River Basin Compact (Compact)*. The Sullivan County Planning Department has been notified of pending action. A public hearing on this project was held by the DRBC on September 15, 2015.

A. DESCRIPTION

- 1. Purpose.** The purpose of this docket is to renew approval of the docket holder's existing 0.014 million gallon per day (mgd) WWTP and its related discharges to groundwater via subsurface absorption beds. No modifications to the WWTP facilities are proposed.
- 2. Location.** The docket holder's WWTP is located on Cold Spring Road in the Town of Thompson, Sullivan County, New York. The WWTP will continue to discharge to groundwater via subsurface absorption beds. Overflow from the absorption beds will continue to discharge to an unnamed tributary to Turners Brook which is tributary to Bush Kill Creek, which is tributary to the Neversink River, at River Mile 254 -14.5 – 2.5 – 2.0 – 1.5 (Delaware River - Neversink River - Bush Kill Creek - Turners Brook - UNT Turners Brook) The WWTP and subsurface absorption beds are located in the drainage area to the section of the non-tidal Delaware River known as the Upper Delaware, which is classified as Special Protection Water (SPW).

The project discharge is located in the Neversink River Watershed as follows:

OUTFALL	LATITUDE (N)	LONGITUDE (W)
Absorption Beds (Outfalls 002, 003, & 004) & Overflow (Outfall 001)	41° 37' 25"	74° 40' 55"

3. Area Served. The docket holder's WWTP will continue to serve the Cold Spring Cottages seasonal residential development in the Town of Thompson, Sullivan County, New York. 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 0.014 mgd WWTP will continue to utilize a septic system / sand filter treatment system with and discharge to groundwater via subsurface absorption beds.

b. Facilities. The WWTP facilities consist of five (5) central septic tanks, a dosing chamber, a sand filter, and three (3) cut and fill absorption leach beds, listed in the SPDES permit as Outfalls 002, 003, and 004. The design flows for the absorption beds are 1,500 gallons per day, (gpd), 300 gpd, and 1,500 gpd, respectively. The absorption beds feature an underdrain pipe that is designed to overflow via Outfall 001 to the receiving stream in the case that the absorption beds cannot infiltrate all the treated wastewater effluent.

The docket holder's wastewater treatment facility discharges to waters classified as SPW and is required to have available standby power. The docket holder is required to install standby power within six (6) months of approval of this docket (See DECISION Condition II.n.). (SPW)

The docket holder's wastewater treatment facility is not staffed 24 hours per day, and shall have a remote alarm system that continuously monitors plant operations in accordance with the Commission's SPW requirements. The docket holder is required to install a remote alarm system that continuously monitors plant operations within six (6) months of approval of this docket (See DECISION Condition II.n.). (SPW)

The docket holder has not prepared and implemented an emergency management plan (EMP) in accordance with Commission SPW requirements for the existing WWTP. The docket holder is required as part of this docket approval to prepare and submit an EMP to the DRBC for approval within six (6) months of approval of this docket (See DECISION Condition II.n.). (SPW)

The project facilities are not located in the 100-year floodplain.

Waste 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 groundwater wells that are owned and operated by the docket holder. The wells are operated at a withdrawal rate below the DRBC review threshold, and as such, do not require Commission approval.

d. **SPDES Permit / DRBC Docket.** NYSDEC issued SPDES renewal Permit No. NY0096067 for the project WWTP and groundwater discharge on July 9, 2010, which includes and effluent limits for the overflow via Outfall 001. The permit requires effluent flow monitoring for the project discharge to groundwater (Outfalls 002, 003, &04). The following average monthly effluent limits for Outfall 001, based on a flow of 0.03 mgd, are for DRBC parameters listed in the SPDES permit that meet or are more stringent than the effluent requirements of the DRBC.

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

OUTFALL 001 (UNT Turners Brook)		
PARAMETER	LIMIT	MONITORING
Flow	14,000 gpd	As required by SPDES permit
pH (Standard Units)	6.5 to 8.5	As required by SPDES permit
Total Suspended Solids	20 mg/l	As required by SPDES permit
CBOD (5-Day at 20° C)	20 mg/l (85% minimum removal)	As required by SPDES permit
Fecal Coliform (5/15 – 10/15)	200 colonies per 100 ml as a geo. avg.	As required by SPDES permit

The following average monthly effluent monitoring for Outfall 001 is for DRBC requirements not listed in the SPDES permit.

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

OUTFALL 001 (UNT Turners Brook)		
PARAMETER	LIMIT	MONITORING
Ammonia as Nitrogen	Monitor & Report	Monthly
Total Dissolved Solids	Monitor & Report	Quarterly
CBOD (5-Day at 20° C) Influent	Monitor & Report	Yearly

B. FINDINGS

This docket renews the approval of the docket holder's existing 0.014 mgd WWTP and its discharge to groundwater via absorption beds.

Docket Transfer of Ownership

This docket also approves the transfer of ownership from Mountain Hill Cottages to Cold Spring Cottages, LLC. The transfer occurred in February, 2012.

In 1992, the DRBC adopted SPW requirements, as part of the DRBC 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 has been 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. (Upper/Middle SPW)

On July 16, 2008, the DRBC approved amendments to its 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 and clarity on definitions and terms were updated for the entire program. (Upper/Middle SPW)

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 within in the drainage area to the SPW. Since this project does not entail additional construction and expansion of facilities/service area (i.e., there are not any new or increased non-point source loads associated with this approval), the NPSPCP requirement is not applicable at this time. Accordingly, DECISION Conditions II.m. has been included in this docket.

The nearest surface water intake of record for public water supply is located on the Delaware River approximately 90 River Miles downstream of the docket holder's WWTP overflow, and is operated by the City of Easton.

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 limits in the SPDES 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-2005-002-2 below, Docket No. D-2005-002-1 is terminated and replaced by Docket No. D-2005-002-2.

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 NYSDEC and its SPDES 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. 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.

n. The docket holder shall provide for standby power, install remote alarm controls and prepare an EMP within six (6) months of docket approval. The docket holder shall submit the EMP and certify in writing to the Commission that it has complied with this condition by March 16, 2016.

o. 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.

p. 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.

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. Nothing in this docket constitutes a defense to any penalty action for past conduct of the docket holder or ongoing activity not authorized by this approval. In particular, renewal of this docket does not resolve violations – whether in the past or continuing – of provisions of the Delaware River Basin Compact (“Compact”) or any rule, regulation, order or approval duly issued by the Commission or the Executive Director pursuant to the Compact. The Commission reserves its right to take appropriate enforcement action against the docket holder, including but not limited to recovery of financial penalties consistent with Section 14.17 of the Compact, for any and all such prior or continuing violations.

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: September 16, 2015

EXPIRATION DATE: June 30, 2020