

**DOCKET NO. D-1986-011 CP-4**

**DELAWARE RIVER BASIN COMMISSION**

**Discharge to a Tributary of Special Protection Waters**

**Brodhead Creek Regional Authority  
Wastewater Treatment Plant  
Borough of Stroudsburg, Monroe County, Pennsylvania**

**PROCEEDINGS**

This docket is issued in response to an Application submitted to the Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC or Commission) by the Brodhead Creek Regional Authority (BCRA or docket holder) on January 24, 2014 (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. PA0029289 A-2 for the facility discharge was issued by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) on January 23, 2012.

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 Monroe County Planning Commission has been notified of pending action. A public hearing on this project was held by the DRBC on December 9, 2014.

**A. DESCRIPTION**

1. **Purpose.** The purpose of this docket is to renew approval of the existing 4.5 million gallon per day (mgd) BCRA WWTP, formerly known as the Stroudsburg WWTP, and its related discharge. There are no modifications to the WWTP proposed.

2. **Location.** The docket holder's WWTP is located at 20 South Fourth Street, adjacent to the west of the confluence of McMichael Creek and Brodhead Creek, in the Borough of Stroudsburg, Monroe County, Pennsylvania. The WWTP will continue to discharge to McMichael Creek, which is tributary to Brodhead Creek, at River Mile 213.0 – 4.0 – 0.2 (Delaware River - Brodhead Creek - McMichael Creek), and is located in the drainage area to the section of the non-tidal Delaware River known as the Middle Delaware, which is classified as Special Protection Water (SPW).

The WWTP outfall is located in the Brodhead Creek Watershed as follows:

OUTFALL NO.	LATITUDE (N)	LONGITUDE (W)
001	40° 59' 16"	75° 11' 10"

**3. Area Served.** The BCRA WWTP currently receives domestic and commercial wastewater flows from the Borough of Stroudsburg and a portion of Stroud Township, as well as portions of Pocono Township, Paradise Township, and Hamilton Township, along the Pennsylvania Route 611 corridor. This docket (D-1986-011 CP-4) continues the approval from the previous docket approval (D-1986-011 CP-3) of an expansion of the service area to include the Kalahari Resort project and a commercial development by Pocono Manor Investors, LP, both located in Tobyhanna Township. Docket No. D-1987-011 CP-3 also stipulated that the Pocono Manor Village/Inn, located in Pocono Township, is no longer in the service area of the BCRA WWTP, which is also continued via this docket.

The sewer service area for the BCRA WWTP is depicted on the map entitled “BCRA Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant Sewer Service Area Map – April 2013”, by R.K.R. Hess, revision dated 4/23/2013.

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 4.5 mgd WWTP will continue to utilize a sequencing batch reactor (SBR) treatment system and ultraviolet light (UV) disinfection.

**b. Facilities.** The WWTP facilities consist of a pump station with a coarse screen, three (3) rotating fine screen units and a centrifugal grit removal system, an aerated equalization tank, four (4) SBRs, a post aeration/equalization tank, three (3) tertiary cloth media filters, and a UV disinfection system. Chemical addition is used in the SBRs for alkalinity adjustment and phosphorous reduction.

Sludge handling facilities consist of two (2) sludge thickeners, two (2) sludge digesters, and two (2) belt filter presses for sludge processing.

The docket holder’s wastewater treatment facility discharges to waters classified as SPW and is required to have available emergency power. The WWTP has four (4) diesel generators installed capable of providing emergency power. (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. The WWTP has a SCADA dialer alarm system installed that continuously monitors plant operations. (SPW)

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

The docket holder's existing wastewater treatment facility does not discharge to Outstanding Basin Waters (OBW), and is not required to have a nonvisible discharge plume in accordance with the Commission's SPW requirements. (SPW)

The docket holder's existing wastewater treatment facility is not a direct discharger to SRW and is not required to provide "Best Demonstrable Technology" (BDT) as a minimum level of treatment in accordance with the Commission's SPW requirements. (SPW)

The existing WWTP is located adjacent to McMichael and Brodhead Creeks. The existing WWTP facilities are located outside the 100-year flood zone as a result of an existing United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) levee that is located between the WWTP and McMichael and Brodhead Creeks. The levee was constructed in 1962 in order to protect the Borough of Stroudsburg (including the WWTP) from elevated flood waters in McMichael and Brodhead Creeks. The flood protection project (levee) is inspected annually by the PADEP Bureau of Waterways Engineering and USACE, which issue a dual certification for the inspection.

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 a groundwater and surface water sources owned and operated by the docket holder, as described in detail in DRBC Docket No. D-1991-001 CP-3, which was approved on September 12, 2013.

**d. NPDES Permit / DRBC Docket.** PADEP issued NPDES Permit No. PA0029289 A-2 for the project discharge on January 23, 2012, which includes effluent limits for the project discharge to surface waters classified as trout stocking fishery (TSF). The following average monthly effluent limits and monitoring requirements, based on a flow of 4.5 mgd, are for DRBC parameters 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 (McMichael Creek)</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	85% minimum removal 10 mg/l; 375 lbs/day	As required by NPDES permit
CBOD (5-Day at 20° C)	10 mg/l; 375 lbs/day 85% minimum removal*	As required by NPDES permit
Ammonia-Nitrogen (5/1 to 10/31)	1.5 mg/l; 56.3 lbs/day	As required by NPDES permit
Ammonia-Nitrogen (11/1 to 4/30)	4.5 mg/l; 169 lbs/day	As required by NPDES permit
Fecal Coliform	200 colonies per 100 ml	As required by NPDES permit

OUTFALL 001 (McMichael Creek)		
PARAMETER	LIMIT	MONITORING
Dissolved Oxygen	7.0 mg/l (minimum at all times)	As required by NPDES permit
Nitrate-Nitrogen (5/1 - 10/31)	4.0 mg/l; 150 lbs/day	As required by NPDES permit
Total Phosphorous	1.0 mg/l; 37.5 lbs/day	As required by NPDES permit
Total Dissolved Solids**	1,000 mg/l	As required by NPDES permit

\* Per the NPDES permit, 85% minimum removal of CBOD5 or BOD5

\*\* See DECISION Condition II.q.

The requirements in EFFLUENT TABLE A-2 are not listed in the NPDES Permit, but are Commission SPW specific parameters that must be met as a condition of this docket approval. Commission staff have requested the PADEP include these parameters in their NPDES Permit. Monitoring shall begin January 1, 2014 for each parameter (See DECISION Condition II.d.).

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

OUTFALL 001 (McMichael Creek)		
PARAMETER	LIMIT	MONITORING
Total Kjeldahl Nitrogen (TKN)	Monitor & Report	Monthly
Nitrite+Nitrate-Nitrogen	Monitor & Report	Monthly

e. **Relationship to the Comprehensive Plan.** The docket holder's WWTP was added to the Comprehensive Plan via Docket No. D-1986-011 CP-1 on April 29, 1986. An expansion to the WWTP was approved via Docket No. D-1986-011 CP-2 on October 22, 2009 and a service area modification was approved for the WWTP via Docket No. D-1986-011 CP-3 on May 8, 2013. This docket (D-1986-011 CP-4) renews the WWTP approval.

## **B. FINDINGS**

This docket renews the approval of the docket holder's existing 4.5 mgd WWTP. There are no modifications to the WWTP proposed.

In 1992, the DRBC adopted 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 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 the drainage area to the SPW. The stormwater management ordinance requirements contained in the Brodhead-McMichael Creek Watershed Act 167 Plan (Act 167 Plan), approved by the PADEP on March 10, 2006, satisfy the NPSPCP of the Commission. Stroudsburg Borough, Stroud Township, Pocono Township, Paradise Township, Hamilton Township, and Tobyhanna Township (the municipalities served by the BCRA's Stroudsburg WWTP) have adopted and implemented a stormwater ordinance in accordance with the Act 167 Plan. Since this project does not entail additional construction and expansion of (facilities/service area) (i.e., there aren't any new or increased non-point source loads associated with this approval), the NPSPCP requirement is not applicable at this time. Accordingly, DECISION Condition II.m. has been included in this docket.

At the project discharge location, McMichael Creek has an estimated seven-day low flow with a recurrence interval of ten years of 6.5 mgd (10.1 cfs). The ratio of this low flow to the design wastewater discharge (4.5 mgd or 7.0 cfs) from the WWTP is 1.4:1.

The nearest surface water intake of record for public water supply downstream of the project discharge is the City of Easton intake, located on the Delaware River approximately 31 miles downstream of the project discharge.

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 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-1986-011 CP-4 below:

a. The project described in Docket No. D-1986-011 CP-3 is removed from the Comprehensive Plan to the extent that it is not included in Docket No. D-1986-011 CP-4; and

b. Docket No. D-1986-011 CP-3 is terminated and replaced by Docket No. D-1986-011 CP-4 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 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 March 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 make wastewater discharge 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. 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, 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. 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.

o. 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.

p. 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.

q. 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.

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.

**BY THE COMMISSION**

**DATE APPROVED: December 10, 2014**

**EXPIRATION DATE: January 31, 2020**