

**DOCKET NO. D-2013-022 CP-1**

**DELAWARE RIVER BASIN COMMISSION**

**Pottstown Borough Authority  
Water Filtration Plant  
Borough of Pottstown, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania**

**PROCEEDINGS**

This docket is issued in response to an Application submitted to the Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC or Commission) by Cardno BCM on behalf of the Pottstown Borough Authority (PBA or docket holder) on July 22, 2013 (Application), for approval of the docket holder's existing water filtration plant (WFP) and its discharge. National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit No. PA0052647 for this facility was issued by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) on June 8, 2012, effective July 1, 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*. The Montgomery 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 approve the docket holder's existing 8.0 million gallons per day (mgd) WFP and its discharge. The PADEP and DRBC have based effluent limitations on an average annual discharge flow of 0.22 mgd and 0.0098 mgd from Outfalls Nos. 001 and 002, respectively.

2. **Location.** The WFP will continue to discharge treated effluent to the Schuylkill River at or near River Mile 92.47 – 55.7 (Delaware River – Schuylkill River) via Outfalls Nos. 001 and 002, in the Borough of Pottstown, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania as follows:

<b>OUTFALL NO.</b>	<b>LATITUDE (N)</b>	<b>LONGITUDE (W)</b>
001	40° 14' 28"	75° 41' 46"
002	40° 14' 28"	75° 41' 53"

3. **Area Served.** The docket holder's WFP will continue to treat water withdrawn from the Schuylkill River in order to serve Douglass Township, Berks County, Pennsylvania, as well as the Borough of Pottstown and the Townships of Lower Pottsgrove, Upper Pottsgrove, and West Pottsgrove, all located in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania with water. 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 8.0 mgd WFP. The PADEP and DRBC have based effluent limitations on an average annual discharge flow of 0.22 mgd from Outfall No. 001 and 0.0098 mgd from Outfall No. 002.

**b. Facilities.** The WFP consists of a metal grate, a mechanical screen, chemical addition including potassium permanganate, chlorine, activated carbon, caustic soda, alum, and sodium bisulfate, two (2) flocculation tanks, three (3) sedimentation tanks, six (6) filters, and two storage lagoons. Potable water is conveyed to a clear well where it is further treated by caustic soda, chlorine, fluorosilicic acid, and a poly phosphate before entering the distribution 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 the docket holder's WWTP.

**c. Water withdrawals.** The potable water supply in the project service area is supplied by the docket holder's distribution system, which was approved on September 23, 1964 via Docket No. D-64-36. Renewal of the withdrawal and distribution system are also expected at the December 10, 2014 Commission Hearing via Docket No. D-1964-036 CP-2.

**d. NPDES Permit / DRBC Docket.** NPDES Permit No. PA0052647 was issued by the PADEP on June 8, 2012 (effective July 1, 2012) and includes final effluent limitations for the project discharge of 0.22 mgd and 0.0098 mgd from Outfalls Nos. 001 and 002, respectively, to surface waters classified by the PADEP as a warm water, migratory fishery (WWF/MF). 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**

<b>OUTFALL 001 &amp; 002 (WFP)</b>		
<b>PARAMETER</b>	<b>LIMIT</b>	<b>MONITORING</b>
pH (Standard Units)	6 to 9	As required by NPDES Permit
Total Suspended Solids	30 mg/l	As required by NPDES Permit

The requirement in EFFLUENT TABLE A-2 is not listed in the NPDES Permit, but is a Commission basin-wide parameter that must be met as a condition of this docket approval. Commission staff have requested PADEP include this parameter in their next Permit. Monitoring shall begin January 1, 2015 for this parameter (See DECISION Condition II.d.).

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

<b>OUTFALL 001 &amp; 002 (WFP)</b>		
<b>PARAMETER</b>	<b>LIMIT</b>	<b>MONITORING</b>
Total Dissolved Solids*	Monitor & Report	Quarterly

\* See DECISION Condition II.o.

e. **Cost.** There are no construction costs associated with this WFP approval.

f. **Relationship to the Comprehensive Plan.** The docket holder's 8.0 mgd WFP was incorporated into the Comprehensive Plan upon approval of Docket No. D-64-36 on July 22, 1964. Issuance of this docket will continue approval of the WFP discharge in the Comprehensive Plan (See DECISION Condition I.c.).

## **B. FINDINGS**

The purpose of this docket is to approve the docket holder's existing 8.0 mgd WFP and its discharge. The PADEP and DRBC have based effluent limitations on an average annual discharge flow of 0.22 mgd and 0.0098 mgd from Outfalls Nos. 001 and 002, respectively.

According to the United States Geological Survey (USGS) Streamstats program the Schuylkill River at the docket holder's WFP discharge has an estimated seven-day low flow with a recurrence interval of ten years ( $Q_{7-10}$ ) of 177 mgd (274 cfs). The ratio of this low flow to the hydraulic design wastewater discharge from the 8.0 mgd WFP is 22 to 1.

The nearest surface water intake of record for public water supply is located on the Schuylkill River approximately 10.9 River Miles downstream of the docket holder's WFP, and is operated by the Pennsylvania American Water Company.

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-2013-022 CP-1 below, 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 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. 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.

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. 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.

m. 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.

n. 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.

o. 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.

**BY THE COMMISSION**

**DATE APPROVED: December 10, 2014**

**EXPIRATION DATE: June 30, 2022**