

This DRAFT Docket has been prepared for the purposes of the scheduled public hearing and may be substantially modified as a result of the public hearing process prior to Commission action.

6/17/2025

DOCKET NO. D-2012-029 CP-4

DELAWARE RIVER BASIN COMMISSION

**Schuylkill Valley Sewer Authority
Wastewater Treatment Plant
Blythe 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 Spotts, Stevens and McCoy (SSM) on behalf of the Schuylkill Valley Sewer Authority (SVSA) on February 13, 2025 (Application), for renewal of the docket holder's existing wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) and its discharge. The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) issued National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit No. PA0064211 for this discharge.

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 and Zoning Commission has been notified of pending action. A public hearing on this project was held by the DRBC on February 4, 2026.

A. DESCRIPTION

- 1. Purpose.** The purpose of this docket is to renew approval of the docket holder's existing 0.55 million gallons per day (mgd) WWTP and its discharge.
- 2. Location.** The docket holder's WWTP is located on Ridge Road in Blythe Township, Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania. The WWTP will continue to discharge treated effluent to the Schuylkill River, at River Mile 92.5 – 127.5 (Delaware River – Schuylkill River).

The location of the WWTP outfall in the Schuylkill River Watershed is as follows:

OUTFALL NO.	LATITUDE (N)	LONGITUDE (W)
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001	40° 42' 30.60"	76° 8' 45.90"
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3. Area Served. The docket holder's WWTP will continue to serve the communities of Kaska and Cumbola located in Blythe Township; the communities of Brockton, Maryd, and Tuscarora located in Schuylkill Township; the Borough of New Philadelphia; and the Borough of Middleport all located in Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania. The WWTP also serves the Blythe Township Recycling and Demolition Landfill, located in Blythe Township, Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania, approximately 2 miles north of the WWTP.

For the purpose of defining the Area Served, the Type of Discharge and the Service Area sections from the docket holder's Application are incorporated herein by reference, to the extent consistent with all other conditions contained in Section C. DECISION of this docket.

4. Design Criteria. The docket holder's 0.55 mgd WWTP utilizes an intermittent cycle extended aeration system (ICEAS), which is a variation of the sequencing batch reactor (SBR) treatment process.

5. Facilities. The WWTP facilities consist of one (1) influent pumping station, one (1) automated bar screen, two (2) SBR treatment trains, two (2) aerobic sludge digester tanks, two (2) reed bed tanks, and two (2) ultraviolet light (UV) disinfection units.

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

Wasted sludge will continue to be hauled off-site for disposal in accordance with the NPDES Permit No. PA0064211.

6. Water Withdrawals. The potable water supply in the project service area is provided by the Blythe Township Municipal Authority. The groundwater withdrawal is described in detail in Docket No. D-1991-051 CP, which was approved on October 23, 1991.

7. NPDES Permit / DRBC Effluent Requirements. NPDES Permit No. PA0064211 issued by the PADEP includes final effluent limitations for the project discharge to surface waters classified by the PADEP as supporting migratory fishes (MF) and cold-water fishes (CWF). EFFLUENT TABLES C-1, C-2, & C-3 included in Section C. DECISION condition C.1. of this docket contain effluent requirements for DRBC parameters that must be met as a condition of this approval. Effluent requirements for Outfall No. 001 are based on a discharge rate of 0.55 mgd.

8. Relationship to the Comprehensive Plan. The existing WWTP was included in the Comprehensive Plan by Docket No. D-2012-029 CP-1 on May 8, 2013. The WWTP approval was renewed and/or modified by Docket Nos. D-2012-029 CP-2 and D-2012-029 CP-3, on March 14, 2018, and June 10, 2020, respectively. Issuance of this docket (D-2012-029 CP-4) will continue the WWTP and its discharge in the Comprehensive Plan.

B. FINDINGS

The docket holder applied to renew approval of their existing 0.55 mgd WWTP and its discharge. The Schuylkill Valley Sewer Authority requested a late fee be waived, citing extenuating circumstances such as the sudden loss of a staff member, an injury sustained by another staff member, and not knowing the docket renewal application was due, as the reasons for the late submission of the docket renewal application. The DRBC has elected not to waive the requirement of 18 CFR 401.43 (b)(4)(ii) and maintain that the late fee shall be paid to the DRBC in accordance with the rule and Section C. DECISION Condition 23.

Other

At the docket holder's WWTP discharge, the Schuylkill River has an estimated seven-day low flow with a recurrence interval of ten years (Q₇₋₁₀) of 2.18 mgd (3.38 cfs). The ratio of this low flow to the hydraulic design wastewater discharge rate from the 0.55 mgd WWTP is approximately 4 to 1 (2.18 mgd/0.55 mgd).

The nearest surface water intake of record for public water supply is located on the Schuylkill River approximately 65 River Miles downstream of the docket holder's WWTP 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 conform with Commission effluent quality requirements, where applicable.

The project is designed to produce a discharge that meets the effluent requirements as set forth in the Commission's *Water Quality Regulations (WQR)*.

C. DECISION

Effective on the approval date for Docket No. D-2012-029 CP-4 below, the project described in Docket No. D-2012-029 CP-3 is removed from the Comprehensive Plan to the extent that they are not included in Docket No. D-2012-029 CP-4; Docket No. D-2012-029 CP-3 is terminated and replaced by Docket No. D-2012-029 CP-4; and the project and the appurtenant facilities described in Section A "DESCRIPTION" of this docket shall be included in the Comprehensive Plan. The project and appurtenant facilities as described in Section A of this docket are approved pursuant to Section 3.8 of the *Compact*, subject to the following conditions:

Monitoring and Reporting

1. The docket holder shall comply with the requirements contained in the EFFLUENT TABLES below. The docket holder shall submit the required monitoring results electronically to

the DRBC Project Review Section via email aemr@drbc.gov on the **Annual Effluent Monitoring Report Form** located at this web address: <https://www.nj.gov/drbc/programs/project/docket-app-info.html#3>. 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. 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 C-1: June 1, 2023 – May 31, 2027

OUTFALL NO. 001 (Discharging to Schuylkill River)		
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 (at 20° C)	25 mg/l 85% Minimum Removal	As required by NPDES Permit
Ammonia Nitrogen (5-1 to 10-31) (11-1 to 4-30)	17.5 mg/l Monitor & Report	As required by NPDES Permit
Fecal Coliform (5-1 to 9-30) (10-1 to 4-30)	200 colonies per 100 ml as a geo. avg. 2000 colonies per 100 ml as a geo. avg.	As required by NPDES Permit
BOD (5-Day at 20° C) Influent	Monitor & Report	As required by NPDES Permit
Total Dissolved Solids*	1,000 mg/l*	As required by NPDES Permit

*See DECISION Condition C.5.

EFFLUENT TABLE C-2: June 1, 2027 – May 31, 2033

OUTFALL NO. 001 (Discharging to Schuylkill River)		
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 (at 20° C)	25 mg/l 85% Minimum Removal	As required by NPDES Permit
Ammonia Nitrogen (5-1 to 10-31) (11-1 to 4-30)	11.49 mg/l Monitor & Report	As required by NPDES Permit
Fecal Coliform (5-1 to 9-30) (10-1 to 4-30)	200 colonies per 100 ml as a geo. avg. 2000 colonies per 100 ml as a geo. avg.	As required by NPDES Permit

OUTFALL NO. 001 (Discharging to Schuylkill River)		
PARAMETER	LIMIT	MONITORING
BOD (5-Day at 20° C) Influent	Monitor & Report	As required by NPDES Permit
Total Dissolved Solids*	1,000 mg/l*	As required by NPDES Permit

*See DECISION Condition C.5.

The following monitoring requirements and average monthly effluent limits are for DRBC parameters not listed in the NPDES Permit.

EFFLUENT TABLE C-3: DRBC Parameters Not Included in NPDES Permit

OUTFALL NO. 001 (Discharging to Schuylkill River)		
PARAMETER	LIMIT	MONITORING
True Color*	Monitor & Report*	Quarterly

* See DECISION Condition C.2.

2. The docket holder is required to perform quarterly effluent monitoring for True Color, in accordance with EFFLUENT TABLE C-3 above. After completing 8 quarterly tests, the docket holder may request in writing to the Executive Director that testing for this parameter be reduced or eliminated based on the test results.

Other Conditions

3. 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.

4. 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*.

5. The docket holder may request permission from the Executive Director to perform specific conductance monitoring in lieu of TDS monitoring. The request shall be made in writing and shall include information that supports the effluent specific correlation between TDS and specific conductance. Upon review, the Executive Director may modify the docket to allow specific conductance monitoring in lieu of TDS monitoring.

6. In accordance with 18 C.F.R. 401.8. of the Commission’s Rules of Practice and Procedure (RPP), if at any future time the Project is changed materially from the Project as described in this docket, it will be deemed to constitute a new and different project for the

purposes of Article 11 of the Delaware River Basin Compact and will require Commission amendment of the Comprehensive Plan. In accordance with the same section of the RPP, whenever a change to the Project is made, the sponsor must advise the Executive Director, who will determine whether the change is deemed materially for purposes of this provision.

7. This approval shall expire on the expiration date set forth below unless prior thereto the docket holder has applied to the Commission to renew or extend this approval.

8. 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 C.F.R. 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 DRBC issues a reminder notice in advance of the deadline or the docket holder receives such notice. If 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 pending the grant or denial of the application for docket approval.

9. The docket holder is permitted to treat and discharge wastewater as set forth in the Area Served Section of this docket, which incorporates by reference the Type of Discharge and Service Area sections of the docket holder's Application to the extent consistent with all other conditions of this section. Any expansion beyond that included in Section A.3. Area Served is subject to DRBC review and approval in accordance with Section 3.8 of the Compact.

10. In accordance with the Commission's regulations at 18 C.F.R. Part 440, the docket holder is prohibited from discharging wastewater from high volume hydraulic fracturing ("HVHF") or HVHF-related activities to waters or land within the Basin. The docket holder is further prohibited from discharging hydraulic fracturing wastewater, whether treated or untreated, from sources within or outside the Basin, without obtaining the Commission's prior review and express approval in the form of a revised docket. Violation of this or any condition of this docket approval may result in enforcement, including the risk of financial penalties, pursuant to Section 14.17 of the Delaware River Basin Compact and Section 2.7.8 (18 CFR 401.98) of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure.

11. The facility and operational records shall be available at all times for inspection by the DRBC.

12. The facility shall be operated at all times to comply with the requirements of the Commission's *WQR*.

13. 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.

14. 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.

15. 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.

16. 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).

17. 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, to ensure proper control, use and management of the water resources of the Basin.

18. The docket holder shall be subject to applicable DRBC regulatory program fees, in accordance with duly adopted DRBC resolutions and/or regulations (see 18 C.F.R. 401.43).

19. 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 C.F.R. 401.43).

20. 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 C.F.R. 401.43).

21. 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.

22. 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 (RPP)*. 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.

23. The docket holder owes a remaining balance of \$2,000 for this docket renewal. The balance shall be paid within sixty (60) days of issuance of this docket approval date, or fees may be assessed in accordance with the Commission's Penalty Matrix.

BY THE COMMISSION

APPROVAL DATE:

EXPIRATION DATE: May 31, 2033

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