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DOCKET NO. D-1994-053 CP-3

DELAWARE RIVER BASIN COMMISSION

Discharge to a Tributary of Special Protection Waters

**Lehigh Township Municipal Authority
Danielsville Wastewater Treatment Plant
Lehigh Township, Northampton County, Pennsylvania**

PROCEEDINGS

This docket is issued in response to an application submitted to the Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC or Commission) on February 20, 2018 (Application), for renewal of the docket holder's existing Danielsville wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) and its discharge. National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit No. PA0063240 for this discharge was issued by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) on February 12, 2014.

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 Lehigh Valley Planning Commission has been notified of pending action. A public hearing on this project was held by the DRBC on February 13, 2019.

A. DESCRIPTION

- 1. Purpose.** The purpose of this docket is to renew approval of the docket holder's existing 0.30 million gallons per day (mgd) WWTP and its discharge.
- 2. Location.** The docket holder's WWTP is located at Municipal Road in Lehigh Township, Northampton County, Pennsylvania. The WWTP will continue to discharge treated effluent to Bertsch Creek at River Mile 183.7 – 31.0 – 4.2 (Delaware River – Lehigh River – Bertsch Creek) via Outfall No. 001, within the drainage area to the Lower Delaware Special Protection Waters (SPW).

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

OUTFALL NO.	LATITUDE (N)	LONGITUDE (W)
001	40° 46' 32"	75° 33' 19"

3. **Area Served.** The docket holder's WWTP will continue to serve the Danielsville residential and commercial community located in Lehigh Township, Northampton 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 Section C. DECISION.

4. **Design Criteria.** The docket holder's 0.30 mgd WWTP utilizes a Sequencing Batch Reactor (SBR) treatment process, with chlorine disinfection.

5. **Facilities.** The WWTP facilities consist of an influent pump station, a vertical screen conveyor screen, two SBR treatment trains that operate in parallel, two sludge digesters, four reed beds, and a chlorine contact tank.

The docket holder's wastewater treatment facility discharges to waters classified as SPW and is required to have available standby power. The existing WWTP has a generator installed capable of providing standby power.

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 existing WWTP has a remote alarm system installed that continuously monitors plant operations.

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

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

Wasted sludge will continue to be applied to the on-site reed beds and hauled off-site by a licensed hauler for disposal at a state approved facility.

6. **Water Withdrawals.** The potable water supply in the project service area is provided by private groundwater wells. The groundwater withdrawals are operated at a withdrawal rate below the DRBC groundwater withdrawal review threshold and are not subject to Commission review and approval.

7. **NPDES Permit / DRBC Effluent Requirements.** NPDES Permit No. PA0063240 was issued by the PADEP on February 12, 2014 and includes final effluent limitations for the project discharge of 0.030 mgd to surface waters classified by the PADEP as supporting cold water fishes (CWF). EFFLUENT TABLE C-1 included in the Section C.1., contains 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 0.30 mgd.

8. Relationship to the Comprehensive Plan. The docket holder's WWTP was included in the Comprehensive Plan by Docket No. D-1994-053 CP-1 on January 24, 1996. The Danielsville WWTP was continued in the Comprehensive Plan by Docket No. D-1994-053 CP-2 on March 11, 2015. Issuance of this docket will continue is approval within the Comprehensive Plan (See C. DECISION).

B. FINDINGS

The purpose of this docket is to renew the approval of the docket holder's existing 0.30 mgd Danielsville WWTP and its related discharge.

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.

1. Special Protection Waters (SPW)

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.

The docket holder's WWTP discharges to the drainage area to the Lower Delaware 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 the SPW. Since this project does not entail additional construction and 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 (See conditions C.2 and C.3.).

At the docket holder's WWTP discharge, the Bertsch Creek has an estimated seven-day low flow with a recurrence interval of ten years (Q_{7-10}) of 0.21 mgd (0.32 cfs). The ratio of this low flow to the hydraulic design wastewater discharge from the 0.30 mgd WWTP is 0.7 to 1.

2. Other

The nearest surface water intake of record for public water supply is located on the Lehigh River approximately 10 River Miles downstream of the docket holder's WWTP and is operated by the Northampton Borough Municipal 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 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

Effective on the approval date for Docket No. D-1994-053 CP-3 below, the project described in Docket No. D-1994-053 CP-2 is removed from the Comprehensive Plan to the extent that it is not included in Docket No. D-1994-053 CP-3; Docket No. D-1994-053 CP-2 is terminated and replaced by Docket No. D-1994-053 CP-3; and the project and the appurtenant facilities described in Section A. DESCRIPTION of this docket is continued 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.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. 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: DRBC Parameters Included in NPDES Permit

OUTFALL 001 (Discharging to Bertsch Creek)		
PARAMETER	LIMIT	MONITORING
pH (Standard Units)	6 to 9 at all times	As required by NPDES Permit

OUTFALL 001 (Discharging to Bertsch Creek)		
PARAMETER	LIMIT	MONITORING
Total Suspended Solids	30 mg/l	As required by NPDES Permit
Dissolved Oxygen	5.0 mg/l (minimum at all times)	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)	4.0 mg/l 12 mg/l	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
Phosphorus	Monitor & Report	As required by NPDES Permit
Total Nitrogen	Monitor & Report	As required by NPDES Permit
Nitrate-Nitrite as N	Monitor & Report	As required by NPDES Permit
Total Dissolved Solids	SEE EFFLUENT TABLE C-2	SEE EFFLUENT TABLE C-2

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

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

OUTFALL 001 (Discharging to Bertsch Creek)		
PARAMETER	LIMIT	MONITORING
Total Dissolved Solids	1,000 mg/l	Quarterly

Other Conditions

2. 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.

3. Prior to the docket holder initiating any substantial alterations or additions to the existing WWTP as defined in Section 3.1.3A2.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.

- 4.** 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.
- 5.** 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).
- 6.** 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).
- 7.** 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 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.
- 8.** 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.
- 9.** 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.
- 10.** 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.
- 11.** 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.

12. 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).

13. 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.

14. 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).

15. 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*.

16. 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.

17. 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.

18. 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.

BY THE COMMISSION

APPROVAL DATE:

EXPIRATION DATE: February 29, 2024