

DOCKET NO. D-1991-088 CP-10

DELAWARE RIVER BASIN COMMISSION

**Upper Gwynedd Township
Wastewater Treatment Plant
Upper Gwynedd Township, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania**

PROCEEDINGS

This docket is issued in response to an application submitted to the Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC or Commission) on December 20, 2021 (Application), for renewal of the docket holder’s existing wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) and its discharge. National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit No. PA0023256 for this discharge was issued by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP).

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 August 10, 2022.

A. DESCRIPTION

- 1. Purpose.** The purpose of this docket is to renew approval of the docket holder’s existing 6.4 million gallons per day (mgd) WWTP and its discharge.
- 2. Location.** The docket holder’s WWTP is located at Township Line Road in Upper Gwynedd Township, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania. The WWTP will continue to discharge treated effluent to Wissahickon Creek, at River Mile 92.5 – 12.8 – 12.7 (Delaware River – Schuylkill River – Wissahickon Creek).

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

OUTFALL NO.	LATITUDE (N)	LONGITUDE (W)
001	40° 11’ 24”	75° 17’ 1”

- 3. Area Served.** The docket holder’s WWTP will continue to serve Upper Gwynedd Township and North Wales Borough, as well as portions of Montgomery, Worcester, Whitpain, Towamencin, and Lower Gwynedd Townships, in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania. For the purpose of defining the Area Served, the Type of Discharge and the Service Area from 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. **Design Criteria.** The docket holder's 6.4 mgd WWTP utilizes an activated sludge, extended aeration treatment process and ultraviolet (UV) disinfection. The WWTP is designed for an annual average flow of 6.4 mgd, and a hydraulic design capacity of 7.5 mgd.

5. **Facilities.** The WWTP facilities consist of headworks (screening and grit removal), dual equalization tank for use during peak flows, and three parallel primary clarifiers. From the clarifiers, wastewater flows to a split train of four aeration tanks and three final clarifiers. There are two aeration tanks and two final clarifiers on a supplemental treatment train used during peak flows. Polyaluminum chloride (PAC) is added to the tanks for phosphorus reduction. The WWTP also features the BioMag process which is added to the aeration tanks for enhanced settling. Wastewater from the clarifiers is conveyed to three UV disinfection tanks and then to post-aeration prior to discharge. An effluent pumping station is available for use during periods of flooding in the creek.

Several of the existing facilities are located in the flood hazard area (FEMA-designated 100-year flood zone). The existing facilities in the flood hazard area are protected by an existing earthen dike, which is constructed at an elevation one foot above the 100-year flood elevation and is located outside the floodway.

Wasted sludge will continue to be hauled off-site for disposal.

6. **Water Withdrawals.** The potable water supply in the project service area is provided by the North Wales Water Authority. The docket holder's water withdrawal is described in detail in Docket No. D-1990-006 CP-3, which was approved on December 8, 2011.

7. **NPDES Permit / DRBC Effluent Requirements.** NPDES Permit No. PA0023256 issued by the PADEP includes final effluent limitations for the project discharge to surface waters classified by the PADEP as supporting trout stocking (TSF). EFFLUENT TABLES C-1 & C-2 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 6.4 mgd.

8. **Relationship to the Comprehensive Plan.** The existing WWTP was added to the Comprehensive Plan by Docket No. D-1970-068 CP on September 29, 1970. The WWTP approval was renewed and/or modified by the following Dockets:

DOCKET NO.	DRBC APPROVAL DATE	TYPE
D-1987-029 CP-1	May 27, 1987	Rerate (2.2 to 2.5 mgd)
D-1991-088 CP-1	February 26, 1992	Expansion (2.5 to 4.5 mgd)
D-1991-088 CP-2	September 26, 2005	Upgrades / Improvements
D-1991-088 CP-3	September 27, 2007	Rerate (4.5 to 5.7 mgd)
D-1991-088 CP-4	May 14, 2008	Upgrades / Improvements
D-1991-088 CP-5	July 14, 2010	Upgrades / Improvements
D-1991-088 CP-6	September 15, 2010	Upgrades / Improvements
D-1991-088 CP-7	May 7, 2012	Service Area Modification
D-1991-088 CP-8	December 9, 2015	Renewal
D-1991-088 CP-9	March 14, 2018	Upgrades and Rerate (5.7 to 6.4 mgd)

Issuance of this docket will renew and continue the WWTP and its discharge in the Comprehensive Plan.

B. FINDINGS

The docket holder applied to renew approval of their existing 6.4 mgd WWTP and its discharge.

Near the docket holder's WWTP discharge, the Wissahickon Creek has an estimated seven-day low flow with a recurrence interval of ten years (Q_{7-10}) of 0.1 mgd (0.155 cfs). The ratio of this low flow to the hydraulic design wastewater discharge rate from the 7.5 mgd WWTP is 0.01 to 1.

The nearest surface water intake of record for public water supply is located on the Schuylkill River approximately 20 River Miles downstream of the docket holder's WWTP and is operated by the City of Philadelphia.

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-1991-088 CP-10 below, the project described in Docket No. D-1991-088 CP-9 is removed from the Comprehensive Plan to the extent that they are not included in Docket No. D-1991-088 CP-10; Docket No. D-1991-088 CP-9 is terminated and replaced by Docket No. D-1991-088 CP-10; and the project and the appurtenant facilities described in Section A “DESCRIPTION” of this docket shall be 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.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: DRBC Parameters Included in NPDES Permit

OUTFALL 001 (Discharging to Wissahickon Creek)		
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) (5-1 to 10-31)	4.4 mg/l	As required by NPDES Permit
(11-1 to 4-30)	8.8 mg/l	
CBOD ₅ (at 20° C)	Minimum 85% Removal	As required by NPDES Permit
Ammonia Nitrogen (5-1 to 10-31)	0.65 mg/l	As required by NPDES Permit
(11-1 to 4-30)	1.95 mg/l	
Fecal Coliform	200 colonies per 100 ml as a geo. avg.	As required by NPDES Permit

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 Wissahickon Creek)		
PARAMETER	LIMIT	MONITORING
Total Dissolved Solids*	1,000 mg/l *	Quarterly*
CBOD ₅ (at 20° C)	Monitor & Report Percent Removal	Monthly
CBOD ₅ (at 20° C) Influent	Monitor & Report	Monthly

* See Section C. DECISION Condition C.3.

Other Conditions

2. 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*.
3. 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.
4. Section 2.3.10 of the Commission’s *Rules of Practice and Procedure* (18 C.F.R. 401.41), limiting the Commission’s approval to three years in the absence of an expenditure of substantial funds by the project sponsor in reliance on the approval, is hereby waived for good cause shown in accordance with Section 2.9.3 (18 C.F.R. 401.123) of the same regulations. 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.
5. 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.
6. 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 the Service Area of the docket holder’s Application to the extent consistent with all other conditions of this DECISION Section.

- 7.** 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.
- 8.** The facility and operational records shall be available at all times for inspection by the DRBC.
- 9.** The facility shall be operated at all times to comply with the requirements of the Commission's *WQR*.
- 10.** 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.
- 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.** 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.
- 13.** 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).
- 14.** 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.
- 15.** 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).
- 16.** 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).
- 17.** 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).

18. 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.

19. 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: September 8, 2022

EXPIRATION DATE: February 29, 2028