

5/30/25

DOCKET NO. D-1979-044 -5

DELAWARE RIVER BASIN COMMISSION

Reading Alloys, Inc.

Non-Contact Cooling Water Discharge

Heidelberg and South Heidelberg Townships, Berks County, Pennsylvania

PROCEEDINGS

This docket is issued in response to an application submitted to the Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC or Commission) on October 15, 2024 (Application), for approval of the existing non-contact cooling water (NCCW) discharge from the docket holder's existing production facility for metals, metal powders, and alloys. The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) issued National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit No. PA0070050 for this discharge.

The application was reviewed for approval under Section 3.8 of the *Delaware River Basin Compact*. The Berks County Planning Commission has been notified of pending action. A public hearing on this project was held by the DRBC on August 6, 2025.

A. DESCRIPTION

1. Purpose. The purpose of this docket is to renew approval of the existing NCCW discharge of up to 0.24 million gallons per day (mgd) from the docket holder's manufacturing facility (Facility).

2. Location. The existing Facility is located at Old Penn West Road and is located in both Heidelberg Township and South Heidelberg Township, Berks County, Pennsylvania. The Facility will continue to discharge NCCW to an unnamed tributary (UNT) to Spring Creek, at River Mile 92.47 – 76.8 – 6.7 – 3.9 – 1.5 (Delaware River – Schuylkill River – Tulpehocken Creek – Blue March Reservoir – Spring Creek – UNT Spring Creek) via Outfall No. 001.

The NCCW discharge outfall in the Schuylkill River Watershed is as follows:

OUTFALL NO.	LATITUDE (N)	LONGITUDE (W)
001	40° 20' 18"	76° 7' 35"
101	40° 20' 18"	76° 7' 35"

3. **Area Served.** The docket holder's existing Outfall No. 001 will continue to discharge NCCW located in Berks County, Pennsylvania. 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 Facility utilizes a multi-pond system (Upper, Middle, and Lower) to discharge up to 0.24 mgd of NCCW and stormwater ultimately at Outfall No. 001. The docket holder utilizes water from the UNT to Spring Creek, diverted to the Upper Pond as a source for NCCW for the Facility's thermite scrubber unit. During periods of low stream flow, the Upper Pond receives little to no water and does not discharge to the UNT to Spring Creek.

5. **Facilities.** NCCW utilized for the Facility's processes is then discharged back into Upper Pond (capacity of 2.29 mgd), where it comeslingles with stream water (from UNT to Spring Creek) and stormwater. At capacity, the Upper Pond water overflows back into the UNT to Spring Creek. Monitoring Point (MP) No. 101 collects samples of NCCW discharged to Upper Pond from the Facility.

As the Upper Pond discharges back into the tributary, which flows into a concrete pipe/culvert and passes under a portion of the docket holder's Facility. Outfall No. 004 (stormwater effluent) discharges to a second concrete pipe/culvert structure that meets the prior primary stream, where discharge is then mixed with stormwater from Outfall No. 006. Combined stream flow from the Upper Pond culvert and stormwater outfalls is then discharged to an above-ground portion of the UNT to Spring Creek.

After the point of discharge at Outfall No. 006, the combined effluent with streamflow splits into two portions. Half of the stream continues its flow downstream, while the other half of the stream flow is diverted to the Middle Pond (capacity of 0.30 mgd). The Middle Pond receives additional flow from Outfall No. 003 (stormwater effluent) where the combined streamflow and stormwater discharges back to the UNT to Spring Creek at a downstream point.

Downstream from the Middle Pond's discharge, the streamflow of the UNT to Spring Creek meets effluent from Outfall No. 007 (stormwater effluent). The tributary splits again with a portion of the streamflow passing into the Lower Pond (capacity of 0.42 mgd), then discharged from the Lower Pond before being reintroduced back into the tributary. The docket holder monitors the complete site effluent at Outfall No. 001. See Figure 1 below for a complete flow diagram of the stormwater and NCCW discharges from the Facility.

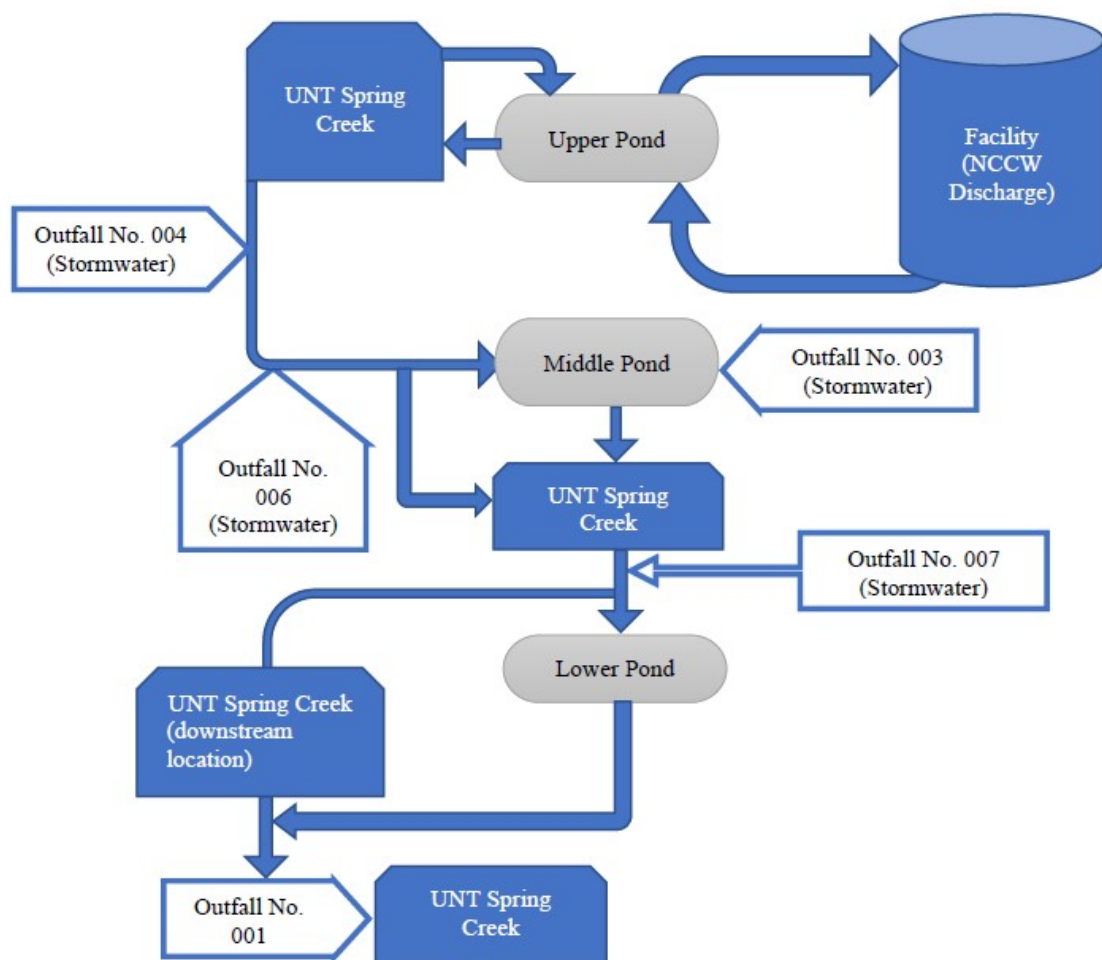


Figure 1: Flow Diagram of Reading Alloys Facility Design

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

Residual waste will continue to be handled in accordance with NPDES Permit No. PA0070050.

6. Water Withdrawals. The potable and process water supplies in the project service area are provided by the docket holder's on-site wells and intake, respectively. The docket holder's water withdrawal is described in detail in Docket No. D-2011-023 -2, which was approved on June 8, 2022.

7. NPDES Permit / DRBC Effluent Requirements. NPDES Permit No. PA0070050 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.4. 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 0.24 mgd.

B. FINDINGS

The docket holder applied to renew approval of their existing 0.24 mgd NCCW discharge.

At the Facility, Spring Creek has an estimated seven-day flow with a recurrence interval of ten years (Q7-10) of less than 0.1 cubic feet per second (cfs) and therefore is classified by the Commission as an intermittent stream.

The nearest surface water intake of record for public water supply is located on Blue Marsh Reservoir approximately 10 River Miles downstream of the docket holder's Facility and is operated by Western Berks Water 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-1979-044-5 below, the project described in Docket No. D-1979-044-4 is terminated and replaced by Docket No. D-1979-044-5; and the project and the appurtenant facilities described in Section A "DESCRIPTION" 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 NO. 001 (Discharging to UNT to Spring Creek)		
PARAMETER	LIMIT	MONITORING
pH (Standard Units)	6 to 9 at all times	As required by NPDES Permit

EFFLUENT TABLE C-2: DRBC Parameters Included in NPDES Permit

OUTFALL NO. 101 (Monitoring Point of NCCW)		
PARAMETER	LIMIT	MONITORING
pH (Standard Units)	6 to 9 at all times	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-3: DRBC Parameters Not Included in NPDES Permit

OUTFALL NO. 101 (Monitoring Point of NCCW)		
PARAMETER	LIMIT	MONITORING
Total Dissolved Solids	1,000 mg/l*	Quarterly

* See DECISION Condition C.4

Other Conditions

2. 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.

3. 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*.

4. 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.

5. 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.

6. 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.

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 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.

8. 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.

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

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

11. 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.

- 12.** 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.
- 13.** 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.
- 14.** 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).
- 15.** 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.
- 16.** 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).
- 17.** 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).
- 18.** 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).
- 19.** 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.
- 20.** 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.

BY THE COMMISSION

APPROVAL DATE:

EXPIRATION DATE: April 30, 2030