

DOCKET NO. D-1999-030 CP-6

DELAWARE RIVER BASIN COMMISSION

**Pennsylvania American Water Company – Glen Alsace District
Groundwater Withdrawal
Lower Alsace Township, Exeter Township and Amity Township,
Berks County, Pennsylvania**

PROCEEDING

This docket is issued in response to an Application submitted to the Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC or Commission) on December 5, 2024 for renewal of an allocation of groundwater and review of a groundwater withdrawal project (Application). The groundwater withdrawal project was approved by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) on September 4, 2014 (PADEP Permit No. 3060088).

The Application was reviewed for continuation of this project in the Comprehensive Plan and for approval under Section 3.8 of the *Delaware River Basin Compact*. The Berks County Planning Commission has been notified of pending action on this docket. 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 the approval of an existing supply of groundwater for the docket holder's Glen Alsace District public water supply distribution system from existing Wells G1, G5, G7, G8, G9, G9A, GL2A, DG3, DG4, DG6, DG11, DG12A and DG13. The total allocation of groundwater will remain at 81.778 million gallons per month (mgm).
2. **Location.** The project wells are located in the Schuylkill River and Trout Run Watersheds, Lower Alsace Township, Exeter Township and Amity Township, Berks County, Pennsylvania. The project wells are completed in the aquifers stated in the table below (Facilities).

Specific location information has been withheld for security reasons.

3. **Area Served.** The docket holder's Glen Alsace District water distribution system serves portions of Exeter Township, Amity Township, Douglassville and St. Lawrence Borough as shown on a map entitled "Service Area Map", submitted with the Application. For the purpose of defining Area Served, the Application is incorporated herein by reference consistent with conditions contained in Section C. DECISION of this docket.
4. **Design Criteria.** The docket holder operates thirteen (13) existing production wells in their Glen Alsace District public water supply distribution system. The system currently serves water to approximately 24,597 customers via 9,110 domestic, 291 commercial, 9 industrial and 868 institutional/other connections. The docket holder records an existing average and maximum

water demand of 1.572 million gallons per day (mgd) and 2.217 mgd, respectively. The projected average and maximum demand are estimated to be 1.65 mgd and 2.33 mgd, respectively over the next ten years. The current allocation of 81.778 mgm should be sufficient to meet the future demands of the docket holder's public water supply system.

The docket holder currently purchases on average 0.207 mgd from the Reading Area Water Authority (RAWA) and 0.205 mgd from Mount Penn Borough Municipal Authority (MPBMA) to supplement groundwater withdrawals for their public water supply distribution system. The docket holder plans to continue purchasing water from RAWA and MPBMA.

5. Facilities. The existing project wells have the following characteristics:

WELL NO.	DEPTH (FEET)	CASED DEPTH/ CASING DIAMETER	PUMP CAPACITY (GPM)	YEAR DRILLED	AQUIFER
G1	162	52' / 8"	200	1955	Hornblende Gneiss
G5	206	62' / 8"	150	1964	Hornblende Gneiss
G7	170	51' / 6"	130	1966	Hornblende Gneiss
G8	220	35' / 8"	500	1967	Fanglomerate
G9	116	47' / 8"	500	1974	Fanglomerate
G9A	315	60' / 8"	300	2005	Fanglomerate
GL2A	445	161' / 8"	135	2003	Brunswick
DG3	262	41' / 6"	80	1959	Brunswick
DG4	245	49' / 8"	120	1965	Brunswick
DG6	397	74' / 8"	150	1986	Brunswick
DG11	357	61' / 8"	250	1990	Brunswick
DG12A	392	69' / 12"	120	2001	Brunswick
DG13	350	92' / 8"	100	2002	Brunswick

All water service connections are metered.

All wells are metered.

Prior to entering the distribution system, all groundwater is disinfected via sodium hypochlorite or gaseous chlorine. All sources except DG13 are treated with polyphosphate for soluble metals. Wells G1, G5, G7, G8, G9, G9A and GL2A are treated with zinc orthophosphate for corrosion control. Wells DG3 and DG4 use adsorption for arsenic removal. Wells G1, G5 and G7 are treated with soda ash for pH adjustment.

The project wellheads are located above the 100-year flood elevation.

The water system is presently interconnected with the Reading Area Water Authority (RAWA) and Mount Penn Borough Municipal Authority (MPBMA) distribution systems. The interconnections have a 1.5 and 0.5 mgd capacity, respectively. These interconnections are used on a regular basis with an average use of approximately 0.412 mgd.

The docket holder's Glen Alsace District system storage facilities have the capacity of 4.46 million gallons (mg), which is equivalent to approximately 1.5 days of supply.

6. **Other.** Wastewater from the service area is conveyed to the following two wastewater treatment facilities:

- Wastewater is conveyed to the docket holder's Exeter Township sewage treatment facility which received approval most recently under Section 3.8 of the *Compact* by DRBC Docket No. D-1992-003 CP-3 on December 9, 2020. The treatment facility has adequate capacity to receive wastewater from the proposed project. The PADEP issued NPDES Permit No. PA0026972 for this facility. The treatment facility has adequate capacity to receive wastewater from this project.
- Wastewater is conveyed to the Amity Township sewage treatment facility which received approval most recently under Section 3.8 of the *Compact* by DRBC Docket No. D-1990-078 CP-6 on March 6, 2024. The treatment facility has adequate capacity to receive wastewater from the proposed project. The PADEP issued NPDES Permit No. PA0070351 A-1 for this facility. The treatment facility has adequate capacity to receive wastewater from this project.

7. **Relationship to the Comprehensive Plan.** The docket holder's wells were included in the Comprehensive Plan via DRBC Dockets Nos. D-1966-111 CP, D-1966-194 CP, D-1968-065 CP, D-1974-068 CP, D-1986-054 CP, D-1996-053 CP, D-1999-030 CP, D-1999-030 CP-2, D-1999-030 CP-3, D-1999-030 CP-4, D-2001-049 CP, D-2003-032 CP and D-1999-030 CP-5 issued on July 20, 1966, September 26, 1966, April 24, 1968, April 24, 1974, March 25, 1987, March 26, 1997, December 8, 1999, January 19, 2005, September 26, 2005, February 28, 2007, February 6, 2002, July 19, 2006 and December 9, 2015, respectively. Issuance of this docket will continue the groundwater withdrawal project in the Comprehensive Plan.

B. **FINDINGS**

1. Water Audits for Public Water Supply Systems Serving Greater than 100,000 gpd

Section 2.1.8 of the *Water Code (WC)* states that it is the policy of the Commission to establish a standardized water audit methodology for owners of water supply systems serving the public to ensure accountability in the management of water resources. Voluntary Water Audits were encouraged for public water supply systems through December 31, 2011 (Section 2.1.8.B.). Effective January 1, 2012, the owners of each public water supply system are required to implement an annual calendar year water audit program conforming to IWA/AWWA Water Audit Methodology (AWWA Water Loss Control Committee (WLCC) Water Audit Software) and corresponding AWWA guidance (Section 2.1.8.C.). Water audits shall be submitted annually to the Commission by March 31. The docket holder submitted their most recent Water Audit on March 28, 2025.

2. Other Findings

Wells DG3, DG4, DG6, DG11 and DG12A are located within the drainage area of one of the Southeastern Pennsylvania Ground Water Protected Area (SEPA GWPA) subbasins, but they are within a municipality that is not included in the SEPA GWPA. The wells are located within the drainage area of the Schuylkill-Sixpenny Creek (SEPA GWPA Subbasin No. 19). Although these sources are not located in the SEPA GWPA, the actual usage of these wells is included in the subbasin's total annual water use for planning purposes in the SEPA GWPA. The total approved allocation of the five (5) docket holder sources located within the Schuylkill-Sixpenny Creek subbasin is 32.486 mgm or 389.832 mgy, which is less than the withdrawal limit set in Section 6.I of the *GWPA Regulations* of 1,987 mgy.

The DRBC estimates that the project withdrawals, used for the purpose of public water supply, result in a consumptive use of 10 percent of the total water use. The DRBC definition of consumptive use is defined in Article 5.5.1.D. of the *Administrative Manual – Part III – Basin Regulations – Water Supply Charges*.

The project is designed to conform to the requirements of the *Water Code* and *Water Quality Regulations* of the DRBC.

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.

C. DECISION

Effective on the approval date for Docket No. D-1999-030 CP-6 below, the project described in Docket No. D-1999-030 CP-5 is removed from the Comprehensive Plan to the extent that it is not included in Docket No. D-1999-030 CP-6; Docket No. D-1999-030 CP-5 is terminated and replaced by Docket No. D-1999-030 CP-6; and the project and the appurtenant facilities described in in Section A.4. (Design Criteria) and A.5. (Facilities) shall be continued in the Comprehensive Plan. The project and appurtenant facilities as described in Section A.4. (Design

Criteria) and A.5. (Facilities) are approved subject to the following conditions, pursuant to Section 3.8 of the *Compact*:

Monitoring and Reporting

1. The docket holder shall continue to report to the PADEP all surface and groundwater sources described in this docket in accordance with the Pennsylvania Regulations (Title 25 - Environmental Protection, [25 PA. CODE CH. 110], Water Resources Planning).
2. The project withdrawals shall be metered by means of an automatic continuous recording device, flow meter, or other method, and shall be measured to within 5 percent of actual flow. Meters or other methods of measurement shall be subject to approval and inspection by the PADEP as to the type, method, installation, maintenance, calibration, reading and accuracy. A record of daily withdrawals shall be maintained, and monthly totals shall be reported to the PADEP annually and shall be available at any time to the Commission if requested by the Executive Director.
3. In accordance with DRBC Resolutions No. 87-6 (Revised) and No. 2009-1, the docket holder shall continue to implement to the satisfaction of the PADEP, the systematic program to monitor and control leakage within the water supply system. The program shall at a minimum include: periodic surveys to monitor leakage, enumerate non-revenue water and determine the current status of system infrastructure; recommendations to monitor and control leakage; and a schedule for the implementation of such recommendations. The docket holder shall proceed expeditiously to correct leakages and unnecessary usage identified by the program.
4. In accordance with DRBC Resolution No. 2009-1 and Section 2.1.8. of the *Water Code*, the docket holder shall implement an annual calendar year water audit program conforming to IWA/AWWA Water Audit Methodology (AWWA Water Loss Control Committee (WLCC) Water Audit Software) and corresponding guidance. Water audits shall be submitted annually to the Commission by March 31.
5. The docket holder shall implement to the satisfaction of the PADEP, a continuous program to encourage water conservation in all types of use within the facilities served by this docket approval. The docket holder will report to the PADEP on the actions taken pursuant to this program and the impact of those actions as requested by the PADEP.
6. The docket holder shall continue to implement its Water Conservation Plan as approved by PADEP and shall report to the PADEP on actions taken pursuant to this program and the impact of those actions as requested by the PADEP.

Other Conditions

7. During any month, the combined withdrawal from all well sources shall not exceed 81.778 mgm. No well shall be pumped above the maximum rate and monthly allocation as indicated below:

WELL NO.	MAXIMUM RATE (GPM)*	MONTHLY ALLOCATION (MGM)
G1	200	5.616
G5	150	6.048
G7	130	5.616
G8	500	21.6
G9	500	21.6
G9A	300	12.96
GL2A	135	5.832
DG3	80	3.571
DG4	120	5.356
DG6	150	6.696
DG11	250	10.8
DG12A	120	5.184
DG13	100	4.32

*Based on a 24-Hour Average

8. 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 the purposes of this provision.

9. 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.

10. 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. If the docket holder has not applied to renew the docket or the DRBC is unable 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 renewal of the docket.

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

12. The wells shall be operated at all times to comply with the requirements of the *Water Code* and *Water Quality Regulations* of the DRBC.

13. The wells shall be equipped with readily accessible capped ports and minimum ½ inch inner diameter (ID) drop pipes so that water levels may be measured under all conditions. Existing wells are to be similarly equipped, where possible, with readily accessible ports and ½ inch ID drop pipes as repairs or modifications are made at each existing well.
14. Each new water service connection shall include a water meter in accordance with the DRBC's Resolution No. 87-7 (Revised).
15. No water 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).
16. The docket holder shall implement to the satisfaction of the PADEP, a drought or other water supply emergency plan.
17. No new water service connections shall be made to premises connected to sewerage systems which are not in compliance with all applicable effluent limits contained in State permits and the *Water Quality Regulations* of the Commission.
18. 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.
19. The docket holder is permitted to provide the water approved in this docket to the areas included in Section A.3. Area Served of this docket. Any expansion beyond those included in Section A.3. Area Served is subject to DRBC review and approval in accordance with Section 3.8 of the *Compact*.
20. 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).
21. 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).
22. 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).
23. The issuance of this docket approval shall not create any private or proprietary rights in the water of the Basin, and the Commission reserves the rights to amend, alter or rescind any actions taken hereunder in order to ensure the proper control, use and management of the water resources of the Basin.

24. If the monitoring required herein or any other relevant data or information demonstrates that the operation of this project is interfering with or otherwise impairing existing uses of ground or surface water, or if the docket holder receives a complaint from an existing ground or surface water user within the zone of influence of the withdrawal alleging such interference or impairment, the permit holder shall immediately notify the Executive Director, and unless excused by the Executive Director, shall investigate the demonstrated or alleged impacts. For purposes of this condition, notification shall mean either (a) electronic transmittal of written notice to the Executive Director via email (using addresses posted on the DRBC website); or (b) written notice to the Executive Director and a telephone call to the Project Review Section at 609-883-9500, ext. 216. (Oral notification must always be accompanied by immediate written notification directed to the Executive Director.) In addition, the docket holder shall provide written notice to all potentially affected water users of the docket holder's responsibilities under this condition. **Any well or surface water supply that is impaired as a result of the docket holder's project withdrawal shall be repaired, replaced or mitigated at the docket holder's expense.** The scope of the options to consider for repair, replacement and/or mitigation shall not be limited solely to those that are owned, operated, or controlled by the project sponsor. An investigation report and/or mitigation plan prepared and certified by a licensed professional engineer and/or a licensed professional geologist shall be submitted to the Executive Director as soon as practicable following notice of the demonstrated or alleged impairment consistent with this paragraph. The Executive Director shall make the final determination regarding the scope and sufficiency of the investigation and the extent of any mitigation measures that may be required. Where ground and surface waters are rendered unavailable, unusable, or unsuitable for the pre-existing use, the Executive Director may direct the docket holder to take interim actions to mitigate such impacts, pending completion of the investigative report and any long-term repair, replacement or mitigation.

25. 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.

26. 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 10, 2025

EXPIRATION DATE: September 10, 2035