

DOCKET NO. D-1986-042 CP-3

DELAWARE RIVER BASIN COMMISSION

**Aqua Pennsylvania Wastewater, Inc.- Media
Wastewater Treatment Plant
Upper Providence Township, Delaware County, Pennsylvania**

PROCEEDINGS

This docket is issued in response to an application submitted to the Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC or Commission) on April 15, 2022 (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. PA0024121 for this facility on April 30, 2018.

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 Delaware County Planning Commission has been notified of pending action. A public hearing on this project was held by the DRBC on November 9, 2022.

A. DESCRIPTION

- Purpose.** The purpose of this docket is to renew the approval of the docket holder's existing 2.2 million gallons per day (mgd) Media WWTP and its discharge. Effluent limits from PADEP and the Commission are currently based upon an average annual flow of 1.8 mgd.
- Location.** The docket holder's Media WWTP is located on South Ridley Road in Upper Providence Township, Delaware County, Pennsylvania. The WWTP will continue to discharge treated effluent to Ridley Creek at River Mile 84.1 – 7.5 (Delaware River – Ridley Creek).

The location of the project outfall in the Ridley Creek Watershed is as follows:

OUTFALL NO.	LATITUDE (N)	LONGITUDE (W)
001	39° 54' 53.65"	75° 23' 55.55"

- Area Served.** The docket holder's Media WWTP will continue to receive wastewater flows from the Borough of Media, and portions of Upper Providence and Middletown Townships, all located in Delaware County, Pennsylvania as delineated on the Comprehensive Service Area map that was part of the Application. For the purpose of defining the Area Served, the Type of Discharge and Service Area sections of 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 existing Media Creek WWTP utilizes influent screening, grit removal, primary settling, a MLE treatment system, and UV disinfection.

5. **Facilities.** The docket holder's Media WWTP consists of a mechanical screen, a bypass bar rack, a degritter, two primary settling tanks, two aeration tanks, two final settling tanks for use as biological reactors configured as an MLE process consisting of a pre-anoxic zone, swing zone, and aerobic zones, two secondary clarifiers, a UV disinfection system and two chlorine contact tanks.

Existing sludge handling consists of a sludge digester, two holding tanks, and a belt filter press.

The existing sludge handling facilities consist of a gravity sludge thickener for co-thickening of primary sludge and waste activated sludge prior to anaerobic digestion, an anaerobic digester, and a digested sludge holding tank.

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

Wasted sludge will continue to be 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 the docket holder's Main water supply distribution system as described in Docket Nos. D-1970-095 CP; D-1985-029 CP; D-1986-010 CP, approved on June 24, 1970, December 18, 1985 and July 30, 1986, respectively.

7. **NPDES Permit / DRBC Effluent Requirements.** NPDES Permit No. PA0024121 issued by the PADEP includes final effluent limitations for the project discharge of 2.2 mgd to surface waters classified by the PADEP as supporting Trout Stocking Fishes (TSF). Effluent requirements for Outfall No. 001 are based upon an average annual flow of 1.8 mgd. EFFLUENT TABLE C-1 included in Section C. DECISION condition C.1. of this docket, contains effluent requirements for DRBC parameters that must be met as a condition of this approval.

8. **Relationship to the Comprehensive Plan.** The Media WWTP and its discharge was added to the Comprehensive Plan upon approval of Docket No. D-1986-042 CP-1 on June 25, 1986. The approval was continued in Docket No. D-1986-042 CP-2 on March 14, 2018. Issuance of Docket No. D-1986-042 CP-3 will continue the WWTP in the Comprehensive Plan.

B. FINDINGS

The docket holder applied to renew the approval of their existing 2.2 mgd WWTP and its discharge. Effluent limits from PADEP and the Commission are currently based upon an average annual flow of 1.8 mgd.

At the docket holder's WWTP discharge, Ridley Creek has an estimated seven-day low flow with a recurrence interval of ten years (Q_{7-10}) of 2.91 mgd (4.5 cfs). The ratio of this low flow to the hydraulic design wastewater discharge from the 2.2 mgd WWTP is 1 to 1.32.

There are no surface water intakes of record for public water supply downstream of the project discharge.

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 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-1986-042 CP-3 below, the project described in Docket No. D-1986-042 CP-2 is removed from the Comprehensive Plan to the extent that it is not included in Docket No. D-1986-042 CP-3; Docket No. D-1986-042 CP-2 is terminated and replaced by Docket No. D-1986-042 CP-3; 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.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 (Ridley Creek)		
PARAMETER	LIMIT	MONITORING
pH (Standard Units)	6 to 9 at all times	As required by NPDES permit
Dissolved Oxygen	5.0 minimum	As required by NPDES permit
Total Suspended Solids	30 mg/l	As required by NPDES permit
Total Suspended Solids Influent	Monitor and Report	As required by NPDES permit
CBOD5 (5-1 to 10-31) (11-1 to 4-30)	15 mg/l	As required by NPDES permit
	25 mg/l	
CBOD5 (at 20° C) Influent	Monitor and Report	As required by NPDES permit
Total Dissolved Solids	1,000 mg/l	As required by NPDES permit
Total Nitrogen	Monitor and Report	As required by NPDES permit
Ammonia Nitrogen (5-1 to 10-31) (11-1 to 4-30)	2.0 mg/l	As required by NPDES permit
	6.0 mg/l	
Fecal Coliform	200 colonies per 100 ml as a geo. avg.	As required by NPDES permit

* See 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 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 or not 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.
- 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 Sections B (Type of Discharge) and D (Service Area) of the docket holder's Application to the extent consistent with all other conditions of Section C. **DECISION.**
- 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 C.F.R. 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 C.F.R. 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 C.F.R. 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: December 7, 2022

EXPIRATION DATE: December 7, 2027