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DOCKET NO. D-1999-040 CP-6

DELAWARE RIVER BASIN COMMISSION

**New Hanover Township Authority
Wastewater Treatment Plant
New Hanover 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 October 25, 2024 (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. PA0057819 for this discharge.

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 November 5, 2025.

A. DESCRIPTION

- 1. Purpose.** The purpose of this docket is to renew approval of the docket holder's existing 1.925 million gallons per day (mgd) WWTP and its discharge.
- 2. Location.** The docket holder's WWTP is located at Fagleysville Road, just north of Swamp Creek in New Hanover Township, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania. The WWTP will continue to discharge treated effluent to Swamp Creek, at River Mile 92.5 – 31.2 – 12.9 – 4.8 (Delaware River – Schuylkill River – Perkiomen Creek – Swamp Creek).

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

OUTFALL NO.	LATITUDE (N)	LONGITUDE (W)
001	40° 16' 45"	75° 32' 50"

3. **Area Served.** The docket holder's WWTP will continue to serve New Hanover Township located in Montgomery 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 docket holder's 1.925 mgd WWTP utilizes an oxidation ditch treatment process with alum addition for phosphorous removal, and ultraviolet (UV) disinfection. The WWTP is designed for an annual average flow of 1.925 mgd, and a hydraulic design capacity of 3.08 mgd.

5. **Facilities.** The WWTP facilities consist of an influent mechanical bar screen, grit removal system, four (4) Kruger oxidation ditches, four (4) clarifiers, ultraviolet disinfection system, post-aeration tank, post-aeration blower building, and effluent flow meter, a drop structure to increase the dissolved oxygen, two (2) aerobic digesters, two (2) sludge holding tanks, sludge pumping station, sludge thickening building, and sludge dewatering building.

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

Wasted sludge will continue to be hauled off-site for disposal in accordance with the NPDES Permit No. PA0057819.

6. **Water Withdrawals.** The potable water supply in the project service area is provided by groundwater wells owned and operated by Aqua, Pennsylvania (d/b/a Superior Water Company). The groundwater withdrawal is described in detail in Docket No. D-2001-015 CP-6, which was approved by the DRBC on December 14, 2016.

7. **NPDES Permit / DRBC Effluent Requirements.** NPDES Permit No. PA0057819 issued by the PADEP includes final effluent limitations for the project discharge to surface waters classified by the PADEP as supporting trout stocking (TSF) and migratory fishes (MF). EFFLUENT TABLES C-1 & C-2 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. Effluent requirements for Outfall No. 001 are based on a discharge rate of 1.925 mgd.

8. **Relationship to the Comprehensive Plan.** The existing WWTP was included in the Comprehensive Plan by Docket No. D-1973-026 CP (REV) on January 24, 1979. The WWTP approval was renewed and/or modified by Docket Nos. D-1999-040 CP-1, D-1999-040 CP-2, D-1999-040 CP-3, D-1999-040 CP-4, and D-1999-040 CP-5, on March 7, 2000, December 12, 2006, September 10, 2014, September 13, 2018, and September 10, 2020, respectively. Issuance of this docket will continue the WWTP and its discharge in the Comprehensive Plan.

B. FINDINGS

The docket holder applied to renew approval of their existing 1.925 mgd WWTP and its discharge. The application also approves of a TDS determination consisting of an average monthly TDS effluent limit of 1,200 mg/l.

1. Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) Determination

Section 3.10.4.D.2 of the Commission's Water Quality Regulations (WQR) states the following:

"Total dissolved solids shall not exceed 1000 mg/l, or a concentration established by the Commission which is compatible with designated water uses and stream quality objectives, and recognizes the need for reserve capacity to serve future dischargers."

Docket No. D-1990-040 CP-4 granted a request from the docket holder for a TDS determination consisting of an average monthly TDS effluent limit of 1,200 mg/l. During the review of Docket No. D-1990-040 CP-4, DRBC staff determined that the monitoring and sampling and other information provided by the docket holder supported the docket holder's claim that elevated WWTP effluent TDS levels are not caused by the WWTP operations or processes and may be exacerbated by the elevated hardness in the public water supply.

Additionally, Docket No. D-1990-040 CP-5 required the docket holder to monitor WWTP influent for TDS on a monthly basis. This docket renews approval of the TDS determination consisting of an average monthly TDS effluent limit of 1,200 mg/l and continues the requirement to sample influent monthly (See EFFLUENT TABLES C-1 and C-2 in the DECISION section of this docket).

2. Other

At the docket holder's WWTP discharge, Swamp Creek has an estimated seven-day low flow with a recurrence interval of ten years (Q_{7-10}) of 1.54 mgd (2.39 cfs). The ratio of this low flow to the design wastewater discharge rate from the 1.925 mgd WWTP is 0.8 to 1 (1.54 mgd / 1.925 mgd).

The nearest surface water intake of record for public water supply is located on Perkiomen Creek approximately 18 River Miles downstream of the docket holder's WWTP and is operated by Aqua Pennsylvania.

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-1999-040 CP-6 below, the project described in Docket No. D-1999-040 CP-5 is removed from the Comprehensive Plan to the extent that it is not included in Docket No. D-1999-040 CP-6; Docket No. D-1999-040 CP-5 is terminated and replaced by Docket No. D-1999-040 CP-6; and the project and the appurtenant facilities described in Section A "DESCRIPTION" of this docket shall be included 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 (Swamp Creek)		
PARAMETER	LIMIT	MONITORING
pH (Standard Units)	6 to 9 at all times	As required by NPDES Permit
Total Suspended Solids	10 mg/l	As required by NPDES Permit
CBOD ₅ (at 20° C) (5-1 to 10-31) (11-1 to 4-30)	10 mg/l 15 mg/l 85% Minimum Removal	As required by NPDES Permit
Ammonia Nitrogen (5-1 to 10-31) (11-1 to 4-30)	1.5 mg/l 3.0 mg/l	As required by NPDES Permit
Fecal Coliform	200 colonies per 100 ml as a geo. avg.	As required by NPDES Permit
Total Dissolved Solids*	1,200 mg/l	As required by NPDES Permit

OUTFALL 001 (Swamp Creek)		
PARAMETER	LIMIT	MONITORING
BOD (5 – Day at 20° C) Influent	Monitor & Report	As required by NPDES Permit

* See DECISION Condition C.3.

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 (Swamp Creek)		
PARAMETER	LIMIT	MONITORING
Total Dissolved Solids Influent	Monitor & Report	Monthly

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 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.

4. 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 purposes of this provision.

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: February 28, 2030