

DOCKET NO. D-2001-057-2

DELAWARE RIVER BASIN COMMISSION

**Southeastern Pennsylvania
Ground Water Protected Area**

**The ACE Center
Ground Water Withdrawal**

Whitemarsh Township, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania

PROCEEDINGS

This docket is issued in response to an Application submitted by The ACE Center to the Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC or Commission) on December 23, 2011 (Application), for the approval of an allocation of groundwater and review of a groundwater withdrawal project in the Ground Water Protected Area of Southeastern Pennsylvania. This docket was previously approved by the Commission on February 6, 2002.

The application was reviewed for continuation of the project in the Comprehensive Plan and approval under Section 3.8 and for a withdrawal permit under Section 10.3 of the *Delaware River Basin Compact*. The Montgomery County Planning Commission has been notified of pending action on this docket. A public hearing on this project was held by the DRBC on March 7, 2012.

A. DESCRIPTION

- 1. Purpose.** The purpose of this docket is to approve the existing supply of water to The ACE Center's golf course irrigation system from existing Wells Nos. 1 and 4. The total allocation of groundwater will remain 13.12 million gallons per month (mgm); The ACE Center is not requesting an increase in groundwater withdrawal allocation from that contained in its prior approval.
- 2. Location.** The project wells are located in the Schuylkill River Watershed, in Whitemarsh Township, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania. The wells are located in the Wissahickon Formation.

Specific location information has been withheld for security reasons.

3. **Service area.** The project withdrawals will be used to supply water to the docket holder's golf course irrigation system. The golf course is located southwest of Ridge Pike between Harts Lane and Manor Road in Whitemarsh Township, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania.

4. **Physical features.**

a. **Design criteria.** The ACE Center is an 18-hole golf course located on approximately 311 acres, of which approximately 124.30 acres will receive supplemental irrigation. The golf course consists of 38.0 acres of fairways, 3.5 acres of tees and 4.8 acres of greens. The allocation of groundwater from Wells Nos. 1 and 4 herein will serve the golf course irrigation only; the golf course clubhouse is served by public water from Aqua PA. The docket holder continues to utilize Aqua PA as a source for supplemental irrigation, and to use Wells Nos. 1 and 4 as primary sources of water supply for irrigation. Groundwater from Wells Nos. 1 and 4 will discharge into the irrigation pond, as well as water purchased from Aqua PA for irrigation. The pond has a 4.7 million gallon (mg) storage capacity. The pond is also designed to capture surface water runoff from precipitation events on the golf course. The current average and maximum demand is 0.059 mgd (1.829 mgm) and 0.465 mgd (14.415 mgm), respectively. The docket holder's wells can supply up to 0.423 mgm and the rest is supplied by Aqua PA. The interconnection with Aqua PA has an average daily use of 0.057 mgd (1.767 mgm) and a maximum capacity of 0.864 mgd (26.784 mgm). The docket holder projects no future increase in demand.

b. **Facilities.** The docket holder's existing wells have the following characteristics:

WELL NO.	DEPTH	CASED DEPTH/ CASING DIAMETER	PUMP CAPACITY	YEAR DRILLED
1	445'	80'/12"	225 gpm	2000
4	445'	40'/12"	75 gpm	2000

All wells and service connections are metered.

The project facilities are above the 100-year flood elevation.

The irrigation system is presently interconnected with Aqua PA. Potable and sanitary water for the golf course clubhouse is also supplied by Aqua PA.

The storage system is approximately 4.7 million gallons, or approximately 10 days of supply.

c. **Other.** Wastewater is conveyed to Whitemarsh Township sewage treatment facility which received approval most recently under Section 3.8 of the Compact by DRBC Docket No. D-

1993-037 CP-2 on May 14, 2008. The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) issued its most recent NPDES Permit No. PA0026298 on January 1, 2008 for this treatment facility. The sewage treatment plant has a design capacity of 2.0 mgd.

B. FINDINGS

The project is located within the Southeastern Pennsylvania Ground Water Protected Area delineated by the DRBC pursuant to *Compact* Section 10.2. The project is designed to conform to the requirements of the *Water Code*, *Water Quality Regulations* and *Ground Water Protected Area Regulations (GWPAR)* of the DRBC.

The ACE Center wells have been in operation for more than 10 years without any reported water supply problems or complaints of interference to neighboring wells. No increase in allocation is expected as a result of this docket renewal.

Review and analysis of the application pursuant to Section 6d of the Ground Water Protected Area Regulations (*GWPAR*) result in the following:

1. The withdrawal is consistent with the Commission's Comprehensive Plan and the policies and purposes of these regulations.
2. Opportunities to satisfy water requirements on a timely basis from existing available supplies and facilities have been explored and found infeasible.
3. The withdrawal, in conjunction with other withdrawals in the applicable ground water basin, should not exceed withdrawal limits of the groundwater basin, aquifer or aquifer system.
4. The withdrawal should not significantly impair or reduce the flow of perennial streams in the area.
5. Existing groundwater withdrawals should not be adversely impacted, or will be otherwise assured of adequate supplies in accordance with the requirements of Section 10 of the *GWPAR*.
6. The withdrawal should not cause substantial, permanent adverse impact to the overlying environment.

The ACE Center property and wells are located in the Schuylkill-Plymouth-Mill Creeks subbasin, where the total net annual groundwater withdrawal (1,251.98 mgd) is less than the withdrawal limit set in Section 6.I of the *GWPAR* (5,929 mgd). The docket holder is requesting an monthly allocation of 13.12 mgd which equates to 78.72 mgd (13.12 mgd times 6 months), a fraction of which will be returned to groundwater. However, even if no water from this project were returned to groundwater, the total net annual groundwater withdrawal from this subbasin would remain below the withdrawal limits set in Section 6.I of the *GWPAR*. Therefore, the

withdrawals from the ACE Center wells in conjunction with other withdrawals in the subbasin are in accordance with the requirements of Section 6.I of the *GWPAR*.

The DRBC estimates that the project withdrawals, used for the purpose of golf course irrigation, result in a consumptive use of 90 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*.

C. DECISION

I. Effective on the approval date for Docket No. D-2001-057-2 below:

- a. The project described in Docket No. D-2001-57 is removed from the Comprehensive Plan to the extent that it is not included in Docket No. D-2001-057-2; and
- b. Docket No. D-2001-57 is terminated and replaced by Docket No. D-2001-057-2; and
- c. The project and the appurtenant facilities described in the Section A “Physical Features” of this docket shall be added to the Comprehensive Plan.

II. The project as described in the Section A “Physical features” is approved pursuant to Section 3.8 of the *Compact* and is granted this withdrawal permit pursuant to Section 10.3 of the *Compact* and *GWPAR*, subject to the following conditions:

- a. Docket approval is subject to all conditions, requirements, and limitations imposed by the PADEP, and such conditions, requirements, and limitations are incorporated herein, unless they are less stringent than the Commission’s. Within 60 days (May 7, 2012), the docket holder shall provide written confirmation to the Commission that it has registered and reported with 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).
- b. The wells and operational records shall be available at all times for inspection by the DRBC.
- c. The wells shall be operated at all times to comply with the requirements of the *Water Code* and *Water Quality Regulations* of the DRBC.
- d. During any month period, the withdrawals from the following wells shall not exceed:

WELL NO.	INSTANTANEOUS ALLOCATION (GPM)	MONTHLY ALLOCATION (MILLION GALLONS)
1	225	10.04
4	75	3.1

In addition, the total groundwater withdrawal shall not exceed 13.12 mgm or 78.72 mgy (13.12 mgm times 6 months).

e. The wells shall be equipped with a readily accessible capped port and drop pipe so that water levels may be measured under all conditions.

f. The project withdrawals shall be metered with an automatic continuous recording device that measures to within 5 percent of actual flow. An exception to the 5 percent performance standard, but no greater than 10 percent, may be granted if maintenance of the 5 percent performance is not technically feasible or economically practicable. A record of daily withdrawals shall be maintained, and monthly totals shall be reported annually by June 30, to the Bureau of Watershed Management, PADEP. Withdrawal records shall be available at any time to the Commission if requested by the Executive Director.

g. Each new water service connection shall include a water meter in accordance with the DRBC's Resolution No. 87-7 (Revised).

h. In accordance with DRBC Resolution No. 87-6 (Revised), the docket holder shall continue to implement to the satisfaction of the Bureau of Watershed Management and 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 unaccounted-for 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.

i. The docket holder shall continue to implement its Water Conservation Plan as approved by PADEP, and shall report to the PADEP on the actions taken pursuant to this program and the impact of those actions as requested by the PADEP.

j. The docket holder shall incorporate and implement reasonable conservation practices and measures consistent with efficient utilization of water resources.

k. No new water service connections shall be made to the 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.

l. 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.

m. 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 permit. 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* and the *GWPAR*.

n. A complete application for the renewal of this docket, or a notice of intent to cease the withdrawal operations approved by this docket by the expiration date, must be submitted to the DRBC at least 12 months prior to the expiration date below (unless permission has been granted by the DRBC for submission at a later date), using the appropriate DRBC application form. 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 re-issue the docket before the expiration date below, the terms and conditions of this docket will remain fully effective and enforceable against the docket holder pending the grant or denial of the application for docket approval.

o. 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 insure the proper control, use and management of the water resources of the Basin.

p. If any information demonstrates that the operation of this project significantly affects or interferes with any domestic or other existing uses of ground or surface water, or if the docket holder receives a complaint by any existing ground or surface water users within the zone of influence of the withdrawal, the docket holder shall immediately notify the Executive Director of any complaints by any ground or surface users within the zone of influence of the withdrawal, and unless excused by the Executive Director, shall investigate such complaints. The docket holder should direct phone call notifications of potential well or surface water interference or complaints of interference to the DRBC Project Review Section at 609-883-9500, extension 216. Oral notification must always be followed up in writing directed to the Executive Director. The docket holder shall provide the potentially impacted user(s) of wells or surface water supplies with copies of the correspondence submitted to the Commission. Any ground or surface water user which is substantially adversely affected, rendered dry or otherwise diminished as a result of the docket holder's project withdrawal, shall be repaired, replaced or otherwise mitigated at the expense of the docket holder in accordance with Section's 2., 6.D., 10.B., and 13.A. of the *GWPAR*. A report of investigation and/or mitigation plan prepared by a hydrologist shall be submitted to the Executive Director as soon as practicable. The Executive Director shall make the final determination regarding the validity of such complaints, the scope or sufficiency of such investigations, and the extent of appropriate mitigation measures, if required.

q. 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.

r. For the duration of any drought emergency declared by either Pennsylvania or the Commission, water service or use by the docket holder pursuant to this approval shall be subject to the prohibition of those non-essential uses specified by the Governor of Pennsylvania, the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Council, PADEP, or the Commonwealth Drought Coordinator, to the extent that they may be applicable, and to any other emergency resolutions or orders adopted hereafter by the Commission.

s. 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:

EXPIRATION DATE: March 7, 2022