

**DOCKET NO. D-1996-045 CP-4**

**DELAWARE RIVER BASIN COMMISSION**

**Borough of Lansdale  
Wastewater Treatment Plant  
Lansdale Borough, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania**

**PROCEEDINGS**

This docket is issued in response to an application submitted to the Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC or Commission) on July 1, 2020 (Application), for renewal of the docket holder's existing wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) and its discharge. The discharge is permitted by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) in National or State Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit No. PA0026182. 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 February 10, 2021.

**A. DESCRIPTION**

- 1. Purpose.** The purpose of this docket is to renew approval of the docket holder's existing 4.5 million gallons per day (mgd) WWTP and its discharge.
- 2. Location.** The docket holder's WWTP is located off of Moyers Road at the end of Ninth Street in Lansdale Borough, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania. The WWTP will continue to discharge treated effluent to an unnamed tributary (UNT) to West Branch Neshaminy Creek, at River Mile 115.6 – 40.0 – 5.35 – 1.25 (Delaware River – Neshaminy Creek – West Branch Neshaminy Creek – UNT to West Branch Neshaminy Creek).

Specific location information has been withheld for security reasons.

- 3. Area Served.** The docket holder's WWTP will continue to serve Lansdale Borough, portions of Hatfield Township, Upper Gwynedd Township, Montgomery Township and the Merck West Point Manufacturing Facility (Merck), all located within Montgomery County, Pennsylvania. For the purpose of defining the Area Served, Section B (Type of Discharge) and D (Service Area) of the docket holder's Application are incorporated herein by reference, to the extent consistent with all other conditions contained in the DECISION Section of this docket.
- 4. Design Criteria.** The docket holder's WWTP is designed for an annual average flow of 3.2 mgd, and a hydraulic design capacity of 4.5 mgd. The docket holder's sewer system operates as a combined sewer system (CSS) and is separated into five natural drainage basins, that discharge

up to a peak instantaneous flow rate of 12 mgd from two combined sewer overflow (CSOs). The WWTP utilizes an activated sludge treatment process with extended aeration and chlorine disinfection. The docket holder's WWTP disinfection unit has proposed to upgrade its existing chlorine disinfection to an ultraviolet (UV) disinfection system.

**5. Facilities.** The WWTP facilities consist of a influent pump station, mechanical bar screen, 2 aerated grit chambers, an in-line equalization basin, 3 off-line storage basins for excess wet weather flow, 2 aeration tanks, 2 clarifier tanks, an anoxic phosphorus strip tank for phosphorus removal, 2 plastic media nitrification trickling filters, 2 nitrification clarifiers. The denitrification process consists of a first stage anoxic mixing tank, a second stage aerated stabilization tank, and 2 denitrification clarifier tanks that operate between July and October. Disinfection consists of a chlorination and de-chlorination system that discharge to Outfall No. 001. The on-site sludge handling facilities consist of 2 gravity thickeners. The docket holder indicated that the existing 2 chlorination tanks will be modified into 2 UV disinfection units before they discharge to Outfall No. 001.

During peak wet weather flow events, combined raw sewage and stormwater (CSOs) is discharged to Outfall Nos. 002 and 003. At Outfall No. 002, chlorine is added to an overflow chamber for disinfection and it is diverted to a swirl concentrator for solids removal before discharged to the UNT to West Branch Neshaminy Creek.

The docket holder indicated in the application that the WWTP facilities located in the floodplain are flood proofed up to the flood protection elevation (one foot above the 100-year flood elevation) through the construction of a levee.

Wasted sludge will continue to be hauled off-site for disposal.

**6. Water Withdrawals.** The potable water supply in the project service area is provided by North Penn Water Authority. The water withdrawal is described in detail in Docket No. D-1992-044, which was approved on September 16, 2015.

**7. NPDES Permit / DRBC Effluent Requirements.** NPDES Permit No. PA0026182 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 warm water fishes (WWF). EFFLUENT TABLE C-1 included in the DECISION section of this docket, contain effluent requirements for DRBC parameters that must be met as a condition of this approval (See DECISION Condition C.1.). Effluent requirements for Outfall No. 001 are based on a discharge rate of 3.2 mgd.

**8. Relationship to the Comprehensive Plan.** The existing WWTP was added to the Comprehensive Plan by Docket No. D-1975-047 CP on July 28, 1976. The WWTP approval was renewed and/or modified by Docket Nos. D-1996-045 CP, D-1996-045 CP-2 and D-1996-045 CP-3, on December 11, 1996, July 13, 2011 and June 11, 2014, respectively. Issuance of this docket will renew and continue the WWTP and its discharge in the Comprehensive Plan.

**B. FINDINGS**

The docket holder submitted an application to renew approval of their existing 4.5 mgd WWTP and its discharge. The docket holder has also proposed to upgrade and modify the WWTP's existing disinfection to a proposed UV disinfection system.

At the WWTP discharge location, UNT to West Branch Neshaminy Creek has an estimated seven-day low flow with a recurrence interval of ten years ( $Q_{7-10}$ ) 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 Neshaminy Creek approximately 35 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-1996-045 CP-4 below, the project described in Docket No. D-1996-045 CP-3 is removed from the Comprehensive Plan to the extent that they are not included in Docket No. D-1996-045 CP-4; Docket No. D-1996-045 CP-3 is terminated and replaced by Docket No. D-1996-045 CP-4; 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.gov](mailto: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**

<b>OUTFALL 001 (Discharging to UNT to West Branch Neshaminy Creek)</b>		
<b>PARAMETER</b>	<b>LIMIT</b>	<b>MONITORING</b>
pH (Standard Units)	6 to 9 at all times	As required by NPDES Permit
Total Suspended Solids	30 mg/l	As required by NPDES Permit
CBOD <sub>5</sub> (at 20° C) (5-1 to 10-31) (11-1 to 4-30)	11 mg/l (Minimum 85% Removal) 22 mg/l (Minimum 85% Removal)	As required by NPDES Permit
Ammonia Nitrogen (5-1 to 10-31) (11-1 to 4-30)	1.5 mg/l 4.5 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*	1,000 mg/l	As required by NPDES Permit

\*See DECISION Condition C.3

#### **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.** 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.** 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. 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 reissue the docket before the expiration date below, the terms and conditions of the current docket will remain fully effective and enforceable against the docket holder pending the grant or denial of the application for docket approval.

**5.** 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 this DECISION Section.

**6.** 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.

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

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

**9.** 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.

**10.** 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.

- 11.** 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.
- 12.** 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).
- 13.** 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, in order to ensure proper control, use and management of the water resources of the Basin.
- 14.** 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).
- 15.** 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).
- 16.** 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).
- 17.** 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.
- 18.** 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: March 10, 2021**

**EXPIRATION DATE: June 30, 2026**