

DOCKET NO. D-1988-017 CP-4

DELAWARE RIVER BASIN COMMISSION

**Horsham Water & Sewer Authority - Park Creek
Wastewater Treatment Plant
Horsham 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 December 22, 2020 (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. PA0051985 for this facility.

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 August 11, 2021.

A. DESCRIPTION

1. Purpose. The purpose of this docket is to renew approval of the docket holder's existing 2.79 million gallons per day (mgd) Park Creek WWTP and its discharge. Effluent limits from PADEP and the Commission are currently based upon an average annual flow of 2.25 mgd.

2. Location. The docket holder's Park Creek WWTP is located on Park Ridge Road in Horsham Township, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania. The WWTP will continue to discharge treated effluent to Park Creek at River Mile 115.63 - 24.1 - 9.0 - 1.1 (Delaware River - Neshaminy Creek - Little Neshaminy Creek - Park Creek).

Specific location information has been withheld for security reasons.

3. Area Served. The docket holder's Park Creek WWTP will continue to serve Horsham and portions of Upper Dublin Townships, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, as well as portions of Warrington Township, Bucks County, Pennsylvania as delineated on the Comprehensive Wastewater Facilities Plan map that was part of the Application. 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 existing Park Creek WWTP utilizes an activated sludge process with an anaerobic/anoxic/oxic configuration (A2O Process) with three (3) secondary clarifiers, followed by tertiary treatment achieved with disc filters and chemical additions, filtration and ultraviolet (UV) disinfection.

5. **Facilities.** The Park Creek WWTP consists of a screen/grinder chamber, a raw sewage pump station, an equalization tank, three (3) parallel A2O treatment units, three (3) secondary clarifiers, a coagulation/flocculation tank, three (3) disc filter units, chemical feed systems, two (2) aerobic digester, a sludge dewatering system, and an ultraviolet disinfection system.

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 water supply distribution system as described in Docket No. D-1997-016 CP-4, approved on June 13, 2018.

7. **NPDES Permit / DRBC Effluent Requirements.** NPDES Permit No. PA0051985 issued by the PADEP includes final effluent limitations for the project discharge of 2.97 mgd to surface waters classified by the PADEP as supporting Warm Water Fishes (WWF) and Migratory Fishes (MF). Effluent requirements for Outfall No. 001 are based upon an average annual flow of 2.25 mgd. EFFLUENT TABLES C-1 & C-2 included in Section C. DECISION Condition C.1. of this docket, contain effluent requirements for DRBC parameters that must be met as a condition of this approval.

8. **Relationship to the Comprehensive Plan.** The Park Creek WWTP was added to the Comprehensive Plan on December 14, 1988 as described in Docket D-1988-017 CP. An expansion of the WWTP to treat 2.79 mgd was approved on March 6, 2013 via Docket No. D-1988-017 CP-2. The WWTP was continued in the Comprehensive Plan via Docket No. D-1988-017 CP-3, which was approved on December 14, 2016. Issuance of this docket (D-1988-017 CP-4) will continue the WWTP in the Comprehensive Plan.

B. FINDINGS

The docket holder submitted an application to renew the approval of their existing 2.79 mgd WWTP and its discharge.

At the docket holder's WWTP discharge, Park Creek has an estimated seven-day low flow with a recurrence interval of ten years (Q_{7-10}) of 0.155 mgd (0.24 cfs). The ratio of this low flow to the hydraulic design wastewater discharge from the 2.79 mgd WWTP is 1 to 18.

The nearest surface water intake of record for public water supply is located on the Neshaminy Creek approximately 25.7 River Miles downstream of the docket holder’s WWTP, and is operated by Aqua Pennsylvania, Inc.

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-1988-017 CP-4 below, the project described in Docket No. D-1988-017 CP-3 is removed from the Comprehensive Plan to the extent that it is not included in Docket No. D-1988-017 CP-4; Docket No. D-1988-017 CP-3 is terminated and replaced by Docket No. D-1988-017 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.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 (Park Creek)		
PARAMETER	LIMIT	MONITORING
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
CBOD5 (5-1 to 10-31) (11-1 to 4-30)	10 mg/l	As required by NPDES permit
	20 mg/l	

OUTFALL 001 (Park Creek)		
PARAMETER	LIMIT	MONITORING
CBOD5 (at 20° C) Influent	Monitor and Report	As required by NPDES permit
Ammonia Nitrogen (7-1 to 10-31) (11-1 to 6-30)	4.0 mg/l 2.1 mg/l	As required by NPDES permit
Fecal Coliform	200 colonies per 100 ml as a geo. avg.	As required by NPDES permit

In accordance with its NPDES Permit (No. PA0051985), the docket holder is also monitoring and reporting PFOA and PFOS both in influent and discharge water.

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 (Park Creek)		
PARAMETER	LIMIT	MONITORING
Total Dissolved Solids*	1,000 mg/l*	One Per Quarter

* 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. 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: September 9, 2021

EXPIRATION DATE: December 31, 2028