

DOCKET NO. D-2006-036 CP-3

DELAWARE RIVER BASIN COMMISSION

**Pennsylvania American Water Company– Rock Run
Water Filtration Plant Discharge
West Caln Township, Chester County, Pennsylvania**

PROCEEDINGS

This docket is issued in response to an Application submitted to the Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC or Commission) on August 31, 2020 for approval of the existing Rock Run Water Filtration Plant (WFP) and its filter backwash discharge. The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) issued National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit No. PA0012416 for this discharge.

The Application was reviewed for inclusion in the Comprehensive Plan and for approval under Section 3.8 of the *Delaware River Basin Compact*. The Chester County Planning Commission has been notified of pending action on this docket. 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 0.14 million gallons per day (mgd) Rock Run WFP and its filter backwash discharge.
2. **Location.** The WFP will continue to discharge filter to Rock Run Reservoir via Outfall No. 001, in West Caln Township, Chester County, Pennsylvania.

Specific location information has been withheld for security reasons.

3. **Area Served.** The distribution system serves the docket holder's Coatesville system. Water treated by the WFP is withdrawn from Rock Run Reservoir and the West Branch Brandywine Creek. Each of these water sources is described in Docket No. D-1996-016 CP-3, which was approved by the Commission on December 13, 2017. 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 operates a 0.14 mgd WFP that discharges filter backwash to Rock Run Reservoir. The filter backwash is discharged to the Rock Run Reservoir via Outfall 001.

5. **Facilities.** The WFP consists of three (3) raw water pumps, eight (8) flocculators, four (4) split filters, four (4) clarifiers with sludge rakes, a backwash water tank, and a sludge blowdown tank. Powdered carbon and chlorine are introduced to the system as water is withdrawn from Rock Run Reservoir. Additionally, powdered carbon, chlorine, alum, and lime are introduced prior to raw water entering the flocculators. Effluent from the backwash water tank and sludge blowdown tank is discharged to Rock Run Reservoir via Outfall No. 001. Finished water is pumped into the docket holder's distribution system after a corrosion inhibitor is added.

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

6. **Water Withdrawals.** The potable water supply for this facility is from the docket holder's Coatesville public water distribution system and is described in detail in Docket No. D-1996-016 CP-3, which was approved on December 13, 2017.

7. **NPDES Permit.** NPDES Permit No. PA0012416 was issued by the PADEP includes final effluent limitations for the project discharge of 0.14 mgd to surface waters classified by the PADEP as Trout Stocking Fishery (TSF) and Migratory Fishes (MF). 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 TABLES C-1 and 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. Effluent requirements for Outfall No. 001 are based on a discharge rate of 0.14 mgd.

B. FINDINGS

The purpose of this docket is to renew the approval of the docket holder's existing 0.14 mgd Rock Run WFP and its filter backwash discharge.

Near the project site, Rock Run Reservoir has an estimated seven-day low flow with a recurrence interval of ten years of 0.24 mgd (0.37 cfs). The flow data was obtained from USGS Pennsylvania Streamstats. The ratio of this low flow to the average design filter backwash discharge from the water filtration plant is 1.7 to 1.

The nearest surface water intake of record for public water supply is located on Brandywine Creek approximately 106.6 River Miles downstream of the docket holder's WFP and is operated by the City of Wilmington.

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-2006-036 CP-3 below, the project described in Docket No. D-2006-036 CP-2 is removed from the Comprehensive Plan to the extent that they are not included in Docket No. D-2006-036 CP-3; Docket No. D D-2006-036 CP-2 is terminated and replaced by Docket No. D-2006-036 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 (Rock Run Reservoir)		
PARAMETER	LIMIT	MONITORING
pH (Standard Units)	6 to 9 at all times	As required by NPDES permit
Total Suspended Solids	20 mg/l	As required by NPDES permit
CBOD ₅ (5-Day at 20° C) Effluent	10 mg/l	As required by NPDES permit
Ammonia Nitrogen	Monitor & Report	As required by NPDES permit
Total Dissolved Solids*	1,000 mg/l	As required by NPDES permit
Fecal Coliform	2 colonies per 100 ml as a geo. avg.	As required by NPDES permit

* See DECISION Condition C.3.

EFFLUENT TABLE C-2: DRBC Parameters Not Included in NPDES Permit

OUTFALL 001 (Rock Run Reservoir)		
PARAMETER	LIMIT	MONITORING
CBOD ₅ (at 20° C) Influent	Monitor & Report Percent Removal	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 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 effluent 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 facility and operational records shall be available at all times for inspection by the DRBC.
7. The facility shall be operated at all times to comply with the requirements of the Commission's *WQR*.
8. 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.
9. 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.
10. The docket holder shall discharge effluent in such a manner as to avoid injury or damage to fish or wildlife and shall avoid any injury to public or private property.

- 11.** 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).
- 12.** 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.
- 13.** 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).
- 14.** 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).
- 15.** 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).
- 16.** 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.
- 17.** 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: September 9, 2026