



SUSQUEHANNA RIVER BASIN COMMISSION

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Application 20001204

MOCCASIN RUN GOLF CLUB

Consumptive Water Use of up to 0.390 mgd
for Golf Course Irrigation,
West Fallowfield Township, Chester County, Pennsylvania

Review Authority

Commission staff reviewed the application pursuant to Article 3, Section 3.10 of the Susquehanna River Basin Compact, P.L. 91-575, Commission Regulation §803.42, relating to consumptive use of water. The Commission received the application for consumptive water use on March 27, 2000.

Description

Purpose. The purpose of the application is to request approval for a consumptive water use, for golf course irrigation of fairways, greens, and tees at an 18-hole golf course.

Location. The project is located in West Fallowfield Township, Chester County, Pennsylvania.

Project Features. The project was constructed during the summer of 1988 and has been in continuous operation since that time. As part of the project, the applicant constructed four on-stream ponds that provide for a total of 9.5-million gallons of water storage on site. The ponds capture surface runoff from a 225-acre drainage basin. The ponds all have overflow structures to allow excess runoff to be released downstream. The applicant has requested approval for a maximum consumptive water use of up to 0.390 million gallons per day (mgd). The project has metered its withdrawal since 1998 and calculates its maximum 30-day average water use to be approximately 0.067 mgd. The water is withdrawn from the most downstream pond and the applicant relies only on the four on-stream ponds for its irrigation water supply. This water use practice has been in place since the project's inception. The project does not maintain a conservation release on its lowermost dam, and during decreased precipitation periods there are times when no water is released to the stream.

Findings

The project is subject to consumptive water use approval and reporting requirements, as per Commission Regulations §803.42.

The series of four on-site ponds contain 9.5 million gallons of water in storage. Surface runoff from adjacent upland area, is the primary source of water in the ponds. The ponds have been excavated in the stream channel and intercept shallow ground water (springs) that would have previously provided flow in the stream during drought periods. Staff recommends that the applicant maintain a constant release of water leaving the property of not less than 27.5 gallons per minute (39,600 gallons per day). This release rate equals the Q7-10 flow (the average consecutive 7-day low flow having a 10-year recurrence period). The applicant has structures installed for the release of the conservation flow.

The applicant experiences significant sedimentation in the ponds due to the transport of sediment during heavy rainfall events. The applicant will need to maintain at least 9.5 million gallons of storage in order to comply with both the conservation release requirements, and the project's demand for irrigation water. Staff recommends and the project sponsor has agreed to submit documentation of the available on-site storage every five years to Commission staff.

All water evaporated from the ponds, as well as water withdrawn from the ponds, is considered to be consumptively used. The irrigation system has a meter that measures the quantity of water pumped.

The consumptive use of water by the project is subject to the water compensation requirements contained in Commission Regulation §803.42. To satisfy these requirements, the applicant opted to use its own storage during low flow periods. Staff has determined that the quantity of storage is sufficient to supply the golf course during drought conditions, while maintaining the required conservation release.

The project is subject to water conservation requirements as per Commission Regulation §804.20(c).

The applicant has paid the application fee pursuant to Commission Regulation §803.28 and in accordance with Commission Resolution 98-19, as amended by Commission Resolution 2000-06. The applicant has provided all proofs of notification as required by Commission Regulation §803.25.

The project does not conflict with or adversely affect the Commission's Comprehensive Plan, is physically feasible, and does not adversely influence the present or future use and development of the water resources of the basin.

Compliance Incentive Program

Commission staff has determined that the applicant is eligible to participate in the Commission's Compliance Incentive Program. Therefore, the applicant is not subject to any penalties for water consumed in violation of Commission Regulation 803.42 prior to the date of this docket.

Decision

The consumptive water use of up to 0.390 mgd from the source identified in the application is approved pursuant to Article 3, Section 3.10 of the Compact subject to the following conditions:

a. The applicant shall comply with all Commission regulations, including consumptive water use reporting requirements as per Commission Regulation §803.42. The applicant shall keep daily records of the project's total consumptive use, and shall provide such data to the Commission annually and as otherwise requested.

b. The applicant will maintain a constant conservation release of water downstream of the lowermost dam of not less than 39,600 gallons per day. Failure to maintain the required conservation release will subject the applicant to pay the applicable consumptive water use fees.

c. The applicant shall provide the Commission with documentation every five years certifying that at least 9.5 million gallons of water storage exist in its storage ponds.

d. The applicant shall comply with Commission water conservation requirements as per Commission Regulation §804.20(c).

e. The applicant is eligible for the Commission's Compliance Incentive Program. Therefore, the applicant is not subject to any penalties, including compensation for water consumed prior to the date of this docket.

f. This action shall not be construed to exempt the applicant from obtaining all necessary permits and/or approvals required for the project from other federal, state or local government agencies having jurisdiction over the project. The Commission reserves the right to modify, suspend or revoke this action if the applicant fails to obtain or maintain such approvals.

g. If the project applicant fails to comply with any term or condition of this docket, the Commission may suspend, modify or revoke its approval of same. Upon written notice by the Commission, the project applicant shall have thirty (30) days to correct such non-compliance, unless an alternate period is specified in the notice. Failure to comply within thirty (30) days, or within the alternate period identified in the notice, shall result in a ninety (90) day suspension of approval of this docket. If the project applicant fails to address the non-compliance to the satisfaction of the Commission within the suspension period, this approval may be revoked. Nothing herein shall preclude the Commission from exercising its authority to immediately modify, suspend or revoke this approval where it determines exigent circumstances warrant such action.

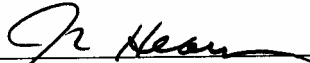
h. The Commission reserves the right, based upon new findings, to reopen this docket and make additional orders that may be necessary to mitigate or avoid adverse impacts or otherwise to protect the public health, safety, welfare or the environment. Commission approval confers no property rights upon the project sponsor.

i. This approval is effective until December 14, 2025. In order to continue operation beyond this date, the applicant shall submit a renewal application by June 14, 2025.

j. If the project is discontinued for such a period of time and under such circumstances that an abandonment of the project may reasonably be inferred, the Commission may rescind the approval of the project unless a renewal is requested by the applicant and approved by the Commission.

Dated: December 14, 2000

By the Commission:



Chairman