

Susquehanna River Basin Commission

a water management agency serving the Susquehanna River Watershed



Docket No. 20011008

Approval Date: October 11, 2001

STONE HEDGE COUNTRY CLUB

Consumptive Water Use of up to 0.350 mgd,
for Golf Course Irrigation,
Tunkhannock Township, Wyoming County, Pennsylvania

Review Authority

This project is subject to review pursuant to Article 3, Section 3.10 of the Susquehanna River Basin Compact, P.L. 91-575, and Commission Regulations §803.4 relating to projects requiring review and approval, and §803.42 relating to the consumptive use of water. The Commission received the application for consumptive water use on September 15, 1999.

Description

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

Location. The project is located in Tunkhannock Township, Wyoming County, Pennsylvania.

Project Features. The applicant has requested approval for the consumptive water use of up to 0.350 million gallons per day (mgd) for golf course irrigation. The applicant originally requested a lesser quantity but increased its request after reviewing its records for peak day use. The project was constructed during the summer of 1992 and has been in continuous operation since that time.

As part of the project, the applicant constructed an on-stream pond that provides for water storage on site. The pond has a surface area of approximately 4.8 acres. The pond captures surface runoff from a 0.523-square mile drainage basin. The pond has an overflow structure to allow excess runoff to be released downstream to Osterhout Creek. The applicant has requested approval for a maximum consumptive water use of up to 0.350 mgd. The project has metered its withdrawal since 1998 and calculates its maximum 30-day average water use to be approximately 0.130 mgd. The project does not maintain a conservation release on its dam,

and during decreased precipitation periods there are times when no water is released to the stream.

Findings

The project's irrigation water use and storage pond evaporative losses are subject to the Commission's consumptive water use approval and reporting requirements as per Commission Regulation §803.42.

All water evaporated from the pond, as well as water withdrawn from the pond and used for golf course irrigation, is considered to be used consumptively. Water evaporated from the pond will be calculated by the applicant employing a methodology acceptable to the Commission. The irrigation system has a meter that measures the quantity of water pumped.

Surface runoff from the adjacent upland area is the primary source of water in the pond. The pond was excavated in the stream channel and also intercepts shallow ground water (springs) that would have previously provided flow in the stream. Staff recommends that the applicant maintain a downstream release of water from the pond of not less than 0.01 cubic feet per second (cfs) or 4.48 gallons per minute (6,451 gallons per day). This release rate equals the Q7-10 flow (the average consecutive 7-day low flow having a 10-year recurrence period). This release must be maintained when flow is present upstream of the pond, and can be discontinued when the stream ceases to flow above the pond.

The applicant will need to maintain sufficient water storage in order to comply with both the release requirements and the project's demand for irrigation water. Staff recommends that the project sponsor submit documentation to Commission staff of the available on-site storage every five years.

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 has 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 (b).

The applicant has paid the appropriate 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 submitted all proofs of notification as required by Commission Regulation §803.25.

The project is physically feasible, does not conflict with or adversely affect the Commission's Comprehensive Plan, and does not 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 would not be subject to penalties for water consumed in violation of Commission Regulation 803.42 prior to January 1, 2001.

Decision

The consumptive water use of up to 0.350 mgd 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 required reporting data shall be submitted to the Commission quarterly.

b. The applicant shall keep daily records of the project's consumptive water use, and shall provide the results to the Commission quarterly, and as otherwise required. The applicant shall maintain metering on the irrigation system, accurate to within five percent. Commission staff shall review and approve of the method for calculation of evaporative loss from the storage pond.

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

d. To satisfy the Commission's current compensation requirements for consumptive use set forth in Commission Regulation §803.42, the applicant shall use water stored in the on-site storage pond while providing a downstream release of water from the storage pond of not less than 0.01 cfs or 4.48 gallons per minute (6,451 gallons per day). This release must be maintained when flow is present upstream of the pond, and can be discontinued during any period when the stream ceases to flow above the pond. The structure used for the release shall be inspected and approved by Commission staff prior to use. The applicant shall provide the Commission with documentation every five years certifying that sufficient water storage exists in its storage pond.

e. The applicant is eligible to participate in the Commission's Compliance Incentive Program (CIP). Therefore, the applicant is not subject to penalties for its prior noncompliance.

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 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 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.

i. This action confers no property rights upon the applicant. The securing of all rights necessary and incident to the applicant's development and operation of the project shall be the sole and exclusive responsibility of the applicant, and this approval shall be subject thereto.

j. This approval is effective until October 11, 2026. The applicant shall submit a renewal application by April 11, 2026 and obtain Commission approval prior to continuing operation beyond October 11, 2026.

k. If the project is discontinued for such a 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.

By the Commission:

Dated: October 11, 2001



Chairman