



SUSQUEHANNA RIVER BASIN COMMISSION

1721 North Front Street • Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17102-2391

Phone (717) 238-0423 • Fax (717) 238-2436

Web <http://www.srbc.net>

Docket No. 20050605

Approval Date: June, 8 2005

LANCASTER COUNTRY CLUB

Surface-Water Withdrawal of Up to 1.285 mgd, when available, from the Conestoga River,
and a Consumptive Water Use of Up to 1.285 mgd, for Golf Course Irrigation,
Manheim and East Lampeter Townships, Lancaster 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, 84 Stat. 1509 et seq., and Susquehanna River Basin Commission (Commission) Regulations §803.4, relating to projects requiring review and approval, §803.42, relating to the consumptive use of water, and §803.44, relating to surface-water withdrawal. The Commission received the request for an increase in consumptive water use from the Conestoga River on October 27, 2004.

Description

Purpose. The purpose of the application is to request approval for the increase in withdrawal and consumptive use of water for irrigation of greens, tees, and fairways at an existing golf course. The Commission originally approved the project for consumptive water use on May 13, 1993, as Docket No. 19930508.

Project Location. The project is located in the Lower Susquehanna Subbasin, HUC 02050306, Conestoga River Watershed, Manheim and East Lampeter Townships, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania.

Project Features. The project sponsor has requested approval for a maximum daily withdrawal of up to 1.285 million gallons per day (mgd) of water from the Conestoga River, and for a maximum daily consumptive use of water of up to 1.285 mgd. The project sponsor calculates that the project's maximum average 30-day consumptive water use will be approximately 0.600 mgd, and peak day consumptive water use will be 1.285 mgd.

The project sponsor was previously approved to consumptively use up to 0.285 mgd (Commission Docket No. 19930508). Its surface-water withdrawal of 0.285 mgd predates Commission Regulation §803.44. At that time, the golf course had 27 holes and the project sponsor proposed to add 6 holes. The current request is for the irrigation of 33 existing holes and 3 proposed holes.

The Lancaster Country Club (LCC) is situated on both sides of the Conestoga River and, in addition to the 33 holes, irrigates a driving range, chipping green, practice green, and turf nursery. LCC proposes to add three new holes within five years.

Water for the irrigation system is withdrawn from the Conestoga River at a pump station, which was constructed in 1997. The pumping capacity is 1,200 gallons per minute (gpm). Water pumped from the river is applied directly to the holes on the west side of the river. On the east side of the river, water is pumped to a storage pond (Pond No. 4) for use by the irrigation system. The pond was in place prior to 1971. LCC's intake is located approximately 1.5 miles upstream from the intake of the City of Lancaster public water supply.

The project sponsor installed a new irrigation system in 1997. At that time, the greens, constructed from native soils, were rebuilt as United States Golf Association standard sand greens. In 2001, the project sponsor installed irrigation in the driving range and range tee box, adding a total area of approximately 10 acres.

Findings

The project is subject to Commission approval and reporting requirements, as per Commission Regulations §803.42 and §803.44.

All water used for golf course irrigation is considered to be used consumptively. Since the storage pond predates the Commission's consumptive use regulation, the project sponsor is not required to provide compensation for the evaporative losses from the pond. The irrigation system is equipped with a meter that measures the quantity of water used for irrigation.

The project sponsor has requested approval for the consumptive use of water of up to 1.285 mgd, and a maximum 30-day average use of 0.600 mgd. Based on information submitted by the project sponsor, Commission staff is recommending approval of a consumptive use of up to 1.285 mgd, provided that the 30-day average use is limited to 0.600 mgd. This will allow for flexibility in irrigation and an anticipated increase in water usage over the 25-year duration of this approval. Although the requested maximum 30-day average is more than double the current 30-day average of 0.218 mgd, the increased water use results from several factors: the sand greens installed in 1997 require approximately twice the quantity of water as the native soil greens, the addition of driving range irrigation, the addition of 3 holes, and a change in turf management practices. Should the project's future consumptive water use exceed or be expected to exceed 1.285 mgd, or the 30-day average use of 0.600 mgd, the project sponsor must apply for a modification to this docket at that time.

Water was being consumptively used at the facility before January 23, 1971, the effective date of Commission Regulation §803.42. The Commission determined a pre-1971 water use of 157,500 gallons per day (gpd) in Commission Docket No. 19930508 and, for purposes of this docket, this quantity of water is considered "grandfathered" and is exempt from water compensation requirements.

The project's consumptive use of water in excess of the grandfathered quantity is subject to water compensation requirements, as per Commission Regulation §803.42. To satisfy these requirements, the project sponsor proposes to continue to make quarterly payments to the Commission in lieu of providing actual compensation water. The payment will be based on the daily quantity of water used for irrigation.

Although the existing surface-water withdrawal predates the effective date of Commission Regulation §803.44, the proposed increase of up to 1.000 mgd requires Commission review and approval. The proposed maximum instantaneous rate of withdrawal from the Conestoga River is 1,200 gpm, based on the pump station capacity. The requested withdrawal rate is less than 10 percent of the 7-day, 10-year low flow (Q7-10 flow) of 38.9 cubic feet per second (cfs), or 17,466 gpm.

The project sponsor's intake is approximately 1.5 miles upstream from the intake of the City of Lancaster, which is authorized by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to withdraw 25 mgd (Order of Confirmation WA-181). The United States Geological Survey (USGS) stream gage No. 01576500 (Conestoga River at Lancaster, Pennsylvania) is located immediately downstream of the City of Lancaster's intake and has a Q7-10 flow of 39.9 cfs, or 17,916 gpm. The Commission received comments from the City of Lancaster indicating that during droughts in 1999 and 2001, the full allocation was not available.

Due to the proximity to the City of Lancaster's public water supply intake and to provide adequate protection for the preexisting use, Commission staff recommends that the project sponsor cease all withdrawals from the Conestoga River when the USGS stream gage indicates a flow of 25.8 mgd, or 39.9 cfs, which represents Q7-10 at the gage.

Commission Docket No. 19930508, as approved, would be superseded by this approval.

The project is subject to the Commission's water conservation requirements, as per Commission Regulation §804.20(b).

The project sponsor 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 project sponsor 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 adversely influence the present or future use and development of the water resources of the basin.

Decision

1. The project's surface-water withdrawal from the Conestoga River of up to 1.285 mgd, when available, and the consumptive use of water of up to 1.285 mgd are approved pursuant to Article 3, Section 3.10, of the Compact.

2. The foregoing findings are hereby adopted and shall be incorporated into and made a part of this decision.

3. Commission Docket No. 19930508, as approved, is hereby superseded by this approval.

4. The project sponsor shall comply with all Commission regulations, including consumptive water use reporting requirements, as per Commission Regulation §803.42, and surface-water withdrawal reporting requirements, as per Commission Regulation §803.44.

5. The project sponsor shall keep daily records of the project's consumptive water use and surface-water withdrawal, and shall report the data to the Commission quarterly, and as otherwise required. Quarterly monitoring reports are due within thirty (30) days after the close of the preceding quarter. The daily quantity of water consumptively used shall be the quantity pumped to the irrigation system. The project sponsor shall maintain metering on the irrigation system and surface-water withdrawal, accurate to within five (5) percent. The project sponsor also shall keep daily records of readings from USGS stream gage No. 01576500 on the Conestoga River at Lancaster, Pennsylvania, during the irrigation season, and shall report the data to the Commission quarterly, and as otherwise required. The project sponsor may propose alternative streamflow monitoring to the Commission for staff review and approval.

6. The project sponsor shall cease its withdrawal of water from the Conestoga River when flow at USGS stream gage No. 01576500 on the Conestoga River at Lancaster, Pennsylvania, is 25.8 mgd or 39.9 cfs.

7. The maximum instantaneous rate of withdrawal from the Conestoga River shall not exceed 1,200 gpm.

8. The maximum 30-day average quantity of water consumptively used shall not exceed 0.600 mgd.

9. To satisfy the Commission's current compensation requirements for consumptive water use set forth in Commission Regulation §803.42, the project sponsor shall make quarterly payments to the Commission based on the rate of \$0.14 per 1,000 gallons of water consumptively used by the project in excess of the grandfathered quantity. The daily quantity of water consumptively used shall be the quantity pumped to the irrigation system. Payment amounts shall be calculated by applying this rate to the daily amount of water used consumptively by the project, less the grandfathered quantity of 0.1575 mgd. If the daily grandfathered quantity exceeds the project's daily consumptive water use, that day's consumptive water use is considered to be zero. Quarterly payments are due and payable within thirty (30) days after the close of the preceding quarter. The rate of payment, after appropriate notice to consumptive users of water using this method of compliance, is subject to change at the Commission's discretion.

10. The project sponsor shall comply with the water conservation requirements specified in Commission Regulation §804.20(b).

11. Commission approval shall not be construed to exempt the project sponsor 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 project sponsor fails to obtain or maintain such approvals.

12. The Commission reserves the right to inspect or investigate the project facility, and the project sponsor shall allow authorized employees or agents of the Commission, without advance notice or a search warrant, at any reasonable time and upon presentation of appropriate credentials, and without delay, to have access to and to inspect all areas where the project is being constructed, operated, or maintained. Such employees or agents shall be authorized to conduct tests or sampling; to take photographs; to perform measurements, surveys, and other tests; to inspect the methods of construction, operation, or maintenance; to inspect all measurement equipment; to audit, examine, and copy books, papers, and records pertinent to any matter under investigation; and to take any other action necessary to assure that the project is constructed, operated, or maintained in accordance with the terms and conditions of this approval or any other rule, regulation, or order of the Commission.

13. If the project sponsor fails to comply with the provisions of the Compact or any rule, regulation, or order of the Commission, or any term or condition of this docket, the Commission may suspend, modify, or revoke its approval of same, and may impose appropriate penalties. Upon written notice by the Commission, the project sponsor shall have thirty (30) days to correct such noncompliance, unless an alternate period is specified in the notice. 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, or from imposing fines and penalties, regardless of the period of noncompliance.

14. The Commission reserves the right to reopen any project docket or issue such additional orders, as may be necessary, to mitigate or avoid adverse impacts or otherwise to protect public health, safety, welfare, or the environment.

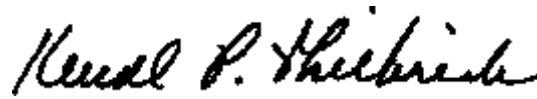
15. Commission approval confers no property rights upon the project sponsor. The securing of all rights necessary and incident to the project sponsor's development and operation of the project shall be the sole and exclusive responsibility of the project sponsor, and this approval shall be subject thereto.

16. This approval is effective until June 8, 2030. The project sponsor shall submit a renewal application by December 8, 2029, and obtain Commission approval prior to continuing operation beyond June 8, 2030.

17. 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 project sponsor and approved by the Commission.

By the Commission:

Dated: June 8, 2005



Kendl P. Philbrick, Chair
Maryland Commissioner