



# SUSQUEHANNA RIVER BASIN COMMISSION

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**Docket No. 20200903**

**Approval Date: September 18, 2020**

## **CABOT OIL & GAS CORPORATION**

**Groundwater Withdrawal (30-Day Average) of 0.864 mgd  
from the Hatchery Wellfield (Wells 1, 2, and 3)**

### **Section 1. Approval**

After review of the record, including the technical findings of Susquehanna River Basin Commission (Commission) staff, the Commission has determined that no significant adverse impacts are anticipated by the operation of this project as described and conditioned herein, the project is physically feasible, and does not conflict with or adversely affect the Commission's Comprehensive Plan. Accordingly, the Commission hereby approves the renewal of the project described herein in accordance with the conditions set forth below.

The project sponsor operates three wells (Wells 1, 2, and 3) that comprise the Hatchery Wellfield. Based on information provided by the project sponsor, no other sources are operated by the project.

The Commission previously approved the 30-day average withdrawal of 0.864 million gallons per day (mgd) from the Hatchery Wellfield under Commission Docket Nos. 20100913 (original) and 20160610 (renewal). The project sponsor submitted a groundwater renewal application for the Hatchery Wellfield requesting approval to withdraw at the previously approved rate and to eliminate hatchery use as an authorized water use. This approval authorizes the continued withdrawal from the Hatchery Wellfield at the requested rate and eliminates hatchery use as an authorized water use. Commission staff recommended special flow protection requirements consistent with current policy. This approval incorporates those recommendations.

Commission staff has coordinated with the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) and the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC) during review of this project.

### **Section 2. Project Information**

Information concerning the project sponsor, water use type, and location are set forth in the table below.

Project Information	
<b>Project Sponsor:</b>	Cabot Oil & Gas Corporation
<b>Approval Type:</b>	Groundwater Withdrawal
<b>Past Docket No.:</b>	20160610
<b>Authorized Water Use Purpose:</b>	Hydrocarbon Development and Related Incidental Uses, Bulk Supply for Hydrostatic Testing and Dust Control associated with Natural Gas Pipeline Construction, and Dust Control associated with Road Construction
<b>Municipality:</b>	Eaton Township
<b>County:</b>	Wyoming County
<b>State:</b>	Pennsylvania

### Section 3. Source Information

Information concerning the source of water from which the withdrawal will be made is set forth in the table below.

Source Information	
<b>Withdrawal Type:</b>	Groundwater
<b>Approved Source:</b>	Hatchery Wellfield (Wells 1, 2, and 3)
<b>Subbasin:</b>	Middle Susquehanna
<b>Watershed Boundary Dataset (WBD):</b>	0205010613 (Bowman Creek)
<b>Withdrawal Location (degrees):</b>	Lat: 41.474083 N      Long: 75.999333 W
<b>Site Flow Statistics (cfs)†:</b>	Q7-10 = 4.0; Average Daily Flow = 131
<b>Wild Trout Classification†:</b>	High Quality-Cold Water Fishery (HQ-CWF) with Naturally Reproducing Wild Trout
<b>Impairment†:</b>	Attaining Designated Use
<b>Drainage Area (square miles)†:</b>	89.5
<b>Aquatic Resource Class*†:</b>	3
<b>Special Flow Protection Required:</b>	Yes
cfs – cubic feet per second	
* Refer to Commission Policy No. 2012-01 (Low Flow Protection Policy Related to Withdrawal Approvals).	
† Based on the anticipated point of impact to surface water.	

### Section 4. Aquifer Testing

The constant-rate aquifer testing required by 18 CFR § 806.12 was completed with prior Commission approval. A 72-hour, constant-rate aquifer test of the Hatchery Wellfield (Wells 1, 2, and 3) was conducted in December 2009, pumping at an average of 600 gallons per minute (gpm). A 336-hour, constant-rate aquifer test of the Hatchery Wellfield was conducted in October 2013, pumping at an average of 600 gpm. The project sponsor provided historical withdrawal and water level data, along with the required groundwater availability analysis.

Data from the 2010 and 2013 aquifer tests indicate that withdrawals from the Hatchery Wellfield (Wells 1, 2, and 3) have the potential to cause unacceptable impacts to streamflow in Bowman Creek. As a result of the potential streamflow impact, Commission staff recommends that the approval of the Hatchery Wellfield (Wells 1, 2, and 3) be conditioned with special flow protection consistent with Commission Policy No. 2012-01 (Low Flow Protection Policy Related to Withdrawal Approvals).

Commission staff determined that the withdrawal from the Hatchery Wellfield (Wells 1, 2, and 3) at the requested withdrawal rate should not cause permanent loss of aquifer storage, render competing supplies unreliable, or cause adverse impacts to the water resources of the basin, subject to the conditions set forth below.

### Section 5. Approved Withdrawal Quantities and Limitations

The withdrawal approved hereunder is subject to the quantitative limits and restrictions set forth in the table below.

<b>Approved Withdrawal Quantities and Limitations</b>		
<b>30-Day Average Withdrawal (mgd):</b>	0.864	
<b>Maximum Instantaneous Withdrawal Rate (gpm):</b>	600 (Not to Exceed)	
<b>Peak Day Withdrawal (mgd):</b>	0.864	
<b>Flow Protection Type:</b>	Seasonal passby expressed as monthly values	
<b>Method for Monitoring Flow Protection:</b>	Off-site monitoring of USGS Real-Time Gage 01534000; Tunkhannock Creek near Tunkhannock, Pennsylvania	
<b>Passby Schedule:</b>		
<i>Month</i>	<i>On-Site Flow Protection Rate (cfs)</i>	<i>Off-Site Monitoring Threshold for Flow Protection (cfs)*</i>
January	34	156
February	40	183
March	--	--
April	--	--
May	--	--
June	21	99
July	12	59
August	8.6	44
September	8.4	43
October	12	58
November	24	110
December	41	186
USGS – U.S. Geological Survey	-- – No special flow protection required	
1 cfs = 448.8 gpm	* Flow Protection Threshold	

The withdrawal is also subject to all other conditions set forth in this docket approval.

## **Section 6. Grandfathering Determination – Withdrawals**

The project did not utilize surface water withdrawals prior to November 11, 1995.

The project utilized groundwater withdrawals prior to July 13, 1978. Changes in use and authorized purpose from a trout park and hatchery to hydrocarbon development and bulk water supply required Commission review and approval of withdrawals. All withdrawals by the project have Commission approval.

## **Section 7. Standard Conditions**

1. The project sponsor shall comply with all Commission regulations, 18 CFR Parts 801, 806, and 808. This project is subject to the Annual Compliance and Monitoring fee as specified in the Commission's Regulatory Program Fee Schedule, which may be modified over the term of the approval.

2. The project sponsor shall adhere to the metering plan reviewed and approved by Commission staff. Any modifications proposed for the metering plan shall be submitted for review and, if appropriate, approval by Commission staff in accordance with 18 CFR § 806.30. Modifications shall not be made until the project sponsor receives written approval of the amended plan.

3. The project sponsor shall maintain the totalizing meter and other flow and volume measuring devices, accurate to within five (5) percent, so as to provide an accurate record of withdrawals, and certify to the Commission once every five (5) years, or as otherwise requested, the accuracy of all measuring devices and methods to within five (5) percent of actual flow.

4. The project sponsor shall adhere to the groundwater elevation monitoring plan reviewed and approved by Commission staff for the source listed in Section 3. The project sponsor shall maintain and monitor the accuracy of the measuring devices in accordance with the manufacturer's specifications.

5. The project sponsor shall keep daily records of the project's withdrawal and groundwater elevations for the source listed in Section 3, and shall report the data to the Commission quarterly, and as otherwise required, in the form and manner as prescribed by Commission staff. Quarterly monitoring reports shall be submitted online and are due within thirty (30) days after the close of the preceding quarter. Any alternative measuring, monitoring, or accounting procedure, and any modifications proposed for the groundwater elevation monitoring plan, shall be submitted for review and approval by Commission staff in accordance with 18 CFR § 806.30. Modifications shall not be made until the project sponsor receives written approval of the amended plan. All data collected and submitted as required under this approval shall be maintained by the project sponsor for the duration of the approval and all subsequent renewals.

6. Within sixty (60) days from notice of this approval, the project sponsor shall post an updated sign that meets Commission specifications and displays required project description

information. Signage specifications can be found at the Commission's website ([www.srbc.net](http://www.srbc.net)), along with example sign templates for reference. The sign shall be maintained for the duration of the approval. Such sign shall be posted at the point of entry or access to the project facility from a public right-of-way. If there is any restriction to access at such point that would prevent an interested person from legibly viewing such sign, then the project sponsor shall post the sign at the nearest location to such point, along the route of ingress and egress to same, where an interested person would have unrestricted access to legibly view such sign. The project sponsor shall submit photographs as proof of installation of the updated sign.

7. The project sponsor or any other person representing the project sponsor shall allow authorized employees or agents of the Commission, without advance notice, 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, or otherwise exercise all investigative powers authorized under 18 CFR § 808.12.

8. In accordance with 18 CFR § 806.30(b)(2), the project sponsor shall report violations of any withdrawal limits and any conditions of this approval within five (5) days of such violation or report loss of measuring or recording capabilities required under 18 CFR § 806.30(a)(1) within five (5) days after any such loss.

9. In accordance with 18 CFR § 806.6, if ownership of the project changes or if the project sponsor undergoes a name change, the project sponsor shall submit application for transfer or reissuance of all approvals to the Commission within ninety (90) days of the change in ownership or project sponsor name change.

10. The project sponsor shall comply with the water conservation requirements specified in 18 CFR § 806.25.

11. This approval is conditioned on the project sponsor maintaining legal access to the withdrawal location for the duration of the approval.

12. The project sponsor shall register with the appropriate agency all groundwater sources described herein, as may be required by regulations of the member jurisdiction.

13. If the project sponsor fails to comply with the provisions of the Susquehanna River Basin Compact or any rule, regulation, or order of the Commission, or any term or condition of this docket, the project sponsor is subject to enforcement actions pursuant to 18 CFR Part 808.

14. Commission approval shall not be construed to exempt the project sponsor from obtaining and maintaining all necessary permits and/or approvals required for the project from other federal, state, or local government agencies having jurisdiction over the project. All such permits and/or approvals shall be obtained prior to the withdrawal of water. The Commission may modify, suspend, or revoke this approval if the project sponsor fails to obtain or maintain such permits and/or approvals.

15. The Commission may at any time reopen any project approval 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, pursuant to 18 CFR § 806.32.

16. 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.

17. This project is approved for inclusion in the Commission's Comprehensive Plan for the Water Resources of the Susquehanna River Basin.

18. The project sponsor is required to apply for and obtain approval prior to any increase in withdrawal that would exceed the amounts listed herein.

19. If the Commission determines that the operation of the project's groundwater withdrawal adversely affects any existing groundwater or surface water withdrawal, the project sponsor shall be required to provide, at its expense, an alternate water supply or other mitigating measure.

## **Section 8. Special Conditions**

20. Effective October 1, 2020, the project sponsor shall cease all withdrawals from the approved source when streamflow, as measured at the U.S. Geological Survey stream gage specified in Section 5, is less than the applicable flow protection threshold specified in Section 5, and shall not reinstate withdrawals until the streamflow has remained above such flow protection threshold for 48 hours.

21. The project sponsor shall, on a daily basis, collect and record streamflow as measured at the U.S. Geological Survey stream gage specified in Section 5, and shall report the data to the Commission quarterly, and as otherwise required, in the form and manner as prescribed by Commission staff. Quarterly monitoring reports shall be submitted online and are due within thirty (30) days after the close of the preceding quarter. The project sponsor may propose alternative flow monitoring to the Commission for staff review and, if appropriate, approval.

22. All bulk supply shall originate from the existing impoundment and shall not be subject to the restrictions of Special Condition 20.

23. The date of the last meter certification was August 7, 2017; therefore, the next meter certification is due no later than August 7, 2022. Certification of meter accuracy shall be provided to the Commission no less frequent than once every five (5) years from the date of the last certification.

24. Except as authorized pursuant to Special Condition 26, the project sponsor shall only supply water for use in hydrocarbon development to persons who have properly registered or received approval pursuant to 18 CFR § 806.22(f), as applicable.

25. The project sponsor shall keep daily records, and shall report the same to the Commission upon request, of all persons supplied water from the project for use in hydrocarbon development, including daily quantities supplied. The project sponsor also shall keep daily records, and shall report the same to the Commission upon request, of all persons supplied water from the project for uses other than hydrocarbon development authorized pursuant to Section 2 and Special Condition 26, including daily quantities supplied.

26. Prior to supplying water for any use not authorized pursuant to Section 2 of this approval, the project sponsor shall first submit a request for minor modification under 18 CFR § 806.18(c)(4) for such new use to the Executive Director. The project sponsor shall not supply water for such use unless and until such authorization is granted, and pursuant to any supplemental terms and conditions contained in such approval.

### **Section 9. Term**

27. This approval shall be effective October 1, 2020, and shall remain effective until September 30, 2025. As specified in 18 CFR § 806.31(e), if the project sponsor submits an application on or before March 31, 2025, the project sponsor may continue operation of this project pursuant to the terms and conditions of this approval until such time as the Commission acts on such application, or until otherwise notified by the Executive Director.

28. Commission Docket No. 20160610 shall remain effective through September 30, 2020, whereupon it shall expire.

**CERTIFICATION:** I, Jason E. Oyler, Secretary to the Susquehanna River Basin Commission, do hereby certify that the foregoing project docket was approved by the Susquehanna River Basin Commission on September 18, 2020.

Dated: September 21, 2020



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Jason E. Oyler, Esq.