



# SUSQUEHANNA RIVER BASIN COMMISSION

4423 North Front Street • Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17110-1788

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

[www.srbc.net](http://www.srbc.net)

**Docket No. 20200911**

**Approval Date: September 18, 2020**

## **MONTGOMERY WATER AUTHORITY**

**Groundwater Withdrawal (30-Day Average) of 0.220 mgd from Well 1,  
and Total System Withdrawal Limit (30-Day Average) of 0.492 mgd**

### **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 maintains and operates a public water supply system that includes three sources (Wells 1, 3, and 4), all of which are included in the total system limit. Based on information provided by the project sponsor, no other sources are operated by the project.

The Commission previously approved the withdrawal of up to 0.330 million gallons per day (mgd) from Well 1 and Well 2 combined under Commission Docket No. 19881102. Since that time, Well 2 was abandoned. The project sponsor submitted a groundwater withdrawal renewal application for Well 1 requesting approval to withdraw 0.220 mgd. This approval authorizes the continued withdrawal from Well 1 at the requested reduced rate and increases the total system limit established under Commission Docket No. 20151202 from 0.398 mgd to 0.492 mgd for withdrawals from Wells 1, 3, and 4 to be consistent with the 15-year project demand through 2035.

Should demand exceed the total system limit established herein, the project sponsor may request a minor modification in accordance with 18 CFR § 806.18(c)(7) to increase the total system limit, as the total system limit established herein is based on the 15-year projected demand.

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>	Montgomery Water Authority
<b>Approval Type:</b>	Groundwater Withdrawal
<b>Past Docket No.:</b>	19881102
<b>Authorized Water Use Purpose:</b>	Public Water Supply
<b>Municipality:</b>	Clinton Township
<b>County:</b>	Lycoming 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>	Well 1
<b>Subbasin:</b>	West Branch Susquehanna River
<b>Watershed Boundary Dataset (WBD):</b>	0205020612 (West Branch Susquehanna River)
<b>Withdrawal Location (degrees)*:</b>	Lat: -- Long: --
<b>Special Flow Protection Required:</b>	No
* Specific location information concerning discrete water-related project features has been withheld for security reasons.	

## Section 4. Aquifer Testing

The constant-rate aquifer testing required by 18 CFR § 806.12 for groundwater withdrawals was completed with prior Commission approval. A 74-hour, constant-rate aquifer test of Well 1 was conducted from September 17 to 20, 2019, pumping at an average rate of 155 gallons per minute (gpm).

Projections using the results of aquifer testing indicate that the top of the well screen located at 364 feet above mean sea level (AMSL) would be exposed after approximately 45 days of pumping at the tested rate with no precipitation. To maintain the water level above the screen, the project sponsor requested a reduced 30-day average withdrawal and proposed to reprogram the supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA) system to cease withdrawals from Well 1 if the water level in the well were to reach the top of the screen. Consistent with Special

Condition 23, staff recommends that the existing pump shutoff be reestablished to prohibit pumping if water levels in Well 1 are equal to or less than 364 feet AMSL.

Commission staff determined that the withdrawal from Well 1 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.

Approved Withdrawal Quantities and Limitations	
<b>30-Day Average Withdrawal (mgd):</b>	0.220
<b>Maximum Instantaneous Withdrawal Rate (gpm):</b>	155 (Not to Exceed)
<b>Peak Day Withdrawal (mgd):</b>	0.223
<b>Total System Withdrawal Limit – Wells 1, 3, and 4 (30-Day Average) (mgd):</b>	0.492

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

## Section 6. Existing Approved Withdrawals

Quantities applicable to the existing approved withdrawals are listed in the table below.

Existing Approved Groundwater Withdrawals			
Source	30-Day Average Withdrawal (mgd)	Commission Docket No.	Docket Expiration Date
Well 3	0.220	19910705	July 11, 2021
Well 4	0.360	20151202	December 3, 2030

## Section 7. Grandfathering Determination – Withdrawals and Consumptive Use

The project did not utilize surface water withdrawals prior to November 11, 1995. All groundwater withdrawals used by the project have Commission approval.

The project did not consumptively use water prior to January 23, 1971.

## Section 8. 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 sources listed in Sections 3 and 6. 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 withdrawals and groundwater elevations for the sources listed in Sections 3 and 6, 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. 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.

7. 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.

8. 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.

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

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

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

12. 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.

13. 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.

14. 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.

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

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

18. The project sponsor is required to apply for and obtain approval prior to any increase in the total system withdrawal that would exceed the approved total system withdrawal limits 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 9. Special Conditions

20. The date of the last meter certification for Wells 1 and 3 is unknown; therefore, these meters shall be certified within ninety (90) days from the date of this approval. 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.

21. 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.

22. 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 records, and shall report the same to the Commission upon request, of all persons supplied water from the project that maintain a permanent connection to the public water supply system. The project sponsor shall also keep daily records, and shall report the same to the Commission upon request, of all persons supplied water from the project that do not maintain a permanent connection to the public water supply system for uses other than hydrocarbon development, including daily quantities supplied.

23. To avoid the potential for exposing the well screen in Well 1, drawdown in Well 1 shall be limited to 364 feet AMSL. Within ninety (90) days from the date of this approval, the project sponsor shall provide documentation to the Commission that the SCADA system has been reprogrammed to cease withdrawals from Well 1 at the prescribed elevation.


## Section 10. Term

24. This approval shall be effective October 1, 2020, and shall remain effective until September 30, 2035. As specified in 18 CFR § 806.31(e), if the project sponsor submits an application on or before March 31, 2035, 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.

25. Commission Docket No. 19881102 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

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jason E. Oyler, Esq.