



SUSQUEHANNA RIVER BASIN COMMISSION

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Docket No. 20200912

Approval Date: September 18, 2020

PIXELLE SPECIALTY SOLUTIONS LLC FACILITY: SPRING GROVE MILL

**Surface Water Withdrawals (Peak Day) of up to
19.800 mgd from Codorus Creek (Mill Pond – New Filter Intake),
16.000 mgd from Codorus Creek (Mill Pond – Powerhouse Intake),
6.000 mgd from Codorus Creek (Mill Pond – Old Filter Intake), and
0.750 mgd from an Unnamed Tributary to Codorus Creek (Kessler Pond – Kessler Intake);
Groundwater Withdrawals (30-Day Averages) of up to
0.039 mgd from Well 1 and 0.021 mgd from Well 2; and
Consumptive Use (30-Day Average) of up to 3.650 mgd from Codorus Creek,
an Unnamed Tributary to Codorus Creek, Well 1, Well 2, and Public Water Supply**

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 project described herein in accordance with the conditions set forth below.

This approval is for an existing project with previously unapproved withdrawals and consumptive uses. Applications for the unapproved sources were submitted as a condition of transfer of ownership. This approval incorporates existing active approvals, including Commission Docket No. 19930510 that was approved May 13, 1993, with a peak day consumptive use amount of 0.670 million gallons per day (mgd); Commission Docket No. 20100608 that was approved on June 11, 2010, with a peak day consumptive use amount of 0.460 mgd; and Commission Docket No. 20170609 that was approved June 16, 2017, with a peak day withdrawal rate of 16.000 mgd and a peak day consumptive use of 0.900 mgd.

The project sponsor has not requested any changes to the project. Commission staff recommended that the existing special flow protection requirements be maintained and incorporated herein. This approval incorporates those recommendations.

Commission staff has coordinated with the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP), the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR), 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	
Project Sponsor:	Pixelle Specialty Solutions LLC
Approval Types:	Surface Water Withdrawal, Groundwater Withdrawal, and Consumptive Use
Authorized Water Use Purpose:	Operation of a Kraft Pulp and Paper Mill, Non-Contact Cooling, Industrial Wastewater Treatment, and Related Incidental Uses
Municipality:	Spring Grove Borough, North Codorus Township, and Jackson Township
County:	York County
State:	Pennsylvania

Section 3. Source Information

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

Source Information	
Approved Sources:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Codorus Creek (Mill Pond – New Filter Intake) 2. Codorus Creek (Mill Pond – Powerhouse Intake) 3. Codorus Creek (Mill Pond – Old Filter Intake) 4. Unnamed Tributary (UNT) to Codorus Creek (Kessler Pond – Kessler Intake) 5. Well 1 6. Well 2
Subbasin:	Lower Susquehanna
Watershed Boundary Dataset (WBD):	0205030607 (Codorus Creek)
Water Use Designation:	Warm Water Fishery (WWF)
Withdrawal Locations (degrees):	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Lat: 39.868287 N Long: 76.867204 W 2. Lat: 39.870233 N Long: 76.867138 W 3. Lat: 39.869880 N Long: 76.867028 W 4. Lat: 39.867629 N Long: 76.867041 W 5. Lat: 39.876692 N Long: 76.848422 W 6. Lat: 39.876414 N Long: 76.847327 W
Site Flow Statistics (cfs):	Q7-10 = 6.9; Average Daily Flow = 72.0
Impairment:	Pathogens
Drainage Area (square miles):	73.6 (Codorus Creek) 3.1 (UNT to Codorus Creek)

Source Information (continued)	
Aquatic Resource Class*:	3 (Codorus Creek) 1 (UNT to Codorus Creek)
Special Flow Protection Required:	Yes
cfs – cubic feet per second	
* Refer to Commission Policy No. 2012-01 (Low Flow Protection Policy Related to Withdrawal Approvals).	

Section 4. Aquifer Testing

The project sponsor requested that the constant-rate aquifer testing required by 18 CFR § 806.12 for groundwater withdrawals be waived. In support of the aquifer testing waiver request for Wells 1 and 2, the project sponsor provided hydrogeologic and monitoring well water level data, and the results of historical operational testing. Commission staff determined that the withdrawals from Wells 1 and 2 at the requested withdrawal rates 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. Staff recommended waiver of the aquifer testing requirements of 18 CFR § 806.12.

Section 5. Approved Withdrawal Quantities and Limitations

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

Approved Withdrawal Quantities and Limitations	
Peak Day Withdrawal Amounts (mgd) (Not to Exceed, When Available):	1. 19.800 (New Filter Intake) 2. 16.000 (Powerhouse Intake) 3. 6.000 (Old Filter Intake) 4. 0.750 (Kessler Intake)
30-Day Average Withdrawal (mgd) (Not to Exceed):	1. 0.039 (Well 1) 2. 0.021 (Well 2)
Maximum Instantaneous Withdrawal Rates (gpm) (Not to Exceed):	1. 16,667 (New Filter Intake) 2. 12,000 (Powerhouse Intake) 3. 4,167 (Old Filter Intake) 4. 521 (Kessler Intake) 5. 33 (Well 1) 6. 20 (Well 2)
Flow Protection Type:	Passby/minimum flowby
On-Site Flow Protection Rate (cfs):	7.6
Method for Monitoring Flow Protection:	Off-site monitoring of USGS Real-Time Gage 01574500; Codorus Creek at Spring Grove, Pennsylvania*
Off-Site Monitoring Threshold for Flow Protection (cfs)**:	7.9
USGS– U.S. Geological Survey	1 cfs = 448.8 gpm
* If the USGS gage is unavailable, alternate flow monitoring may be proposed in accordance with Special Condition 20.	
** Flow Protection Threshold	

The withdrawals are also subject to all other conditions set forth in this docket approval.

Section 6. Approved Consumptive Use Quantities and Limitations

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

Approved Consumptive Use Quantities and Limitations	
Sources for Project Consumptive Use:	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Codorus Creek2. UNT to Codorus Creek3. Well 14. Well 25. Public Water Supply – York Water Company
30-Day Average Consumptive Use Amount (mgd):	3.650 (Not to Exceed)
Authorized Project Consumptive Uses:	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Kraft Pulp and Paper Mill Operations2. Non-Contact Cooling3. Industrial Water Treatment4. Related Incidental Uses
Consumptive Use Mitigation Type:	Release of water from surface water storage for flow augmentation and maintenance of a minimum flow by the intake location in accordance with Special Condition 20

The consumptive use is also subject to all other conditions set forth in this docket 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 consumptive uses, 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 intake design reviewed and approved by Commission staff. Any modifications proposed by the project sponsor for the permitted intake structure shall be submitted for review and, if appropriate, approval by Commission staff in accordance with 18 CFR § 806.21 and § 806.23 prior to undertaking such modification(s).

5. The project sponsor shall keep daily records of the project's withdrawals and consumptive use 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 requested by the project sponsor 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 locations for the duration of the approval.

11. The project sponsor shall register with the appropriate agency all surface water 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 or consumptive use that would exceed the amounts listed herein or to add a source used for consumptive use that is not listed in Section 6.

Section 8. Special Conditions

18. The project sponsor shall notify the Commission, in writing, and submit photographs of the groundwater well meters when they have been installed, provide the serial numbers of the meters, and certify the accuracy of the measuring devices to within five (5) percent of actual flow. The meters shall be installed within ninety (90) days of the date of this approval.

19. 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.

20. The project's consumptive use is subject to mitigation requirements, as per 18 CFR § 806.22(b). To satisfy the Commission's current mitigation requirements for consumptive use, the project sponsor shall release water from surface water storage for flow augmentation during low flow periods in an amount equal to the project's consumptive use, and at all times maintain a minimum streamflow equal to the flow protection threshold specified in Section 5 as measured at the USGS stream gage specified in Section 5. The project sponsor shall monitor this stream gage, make the conservation release, and report these data to the Commission quarterly, and as otherwise required. If at any time the minimum flow protection threshold cannot be maintained by release of water from upstream reservoirs, the project sponsor shall cease all withdrawals from the approved surface water sources when streamflow, as measured at the USGS 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 is equal to or exceeds such

flow protection threshold. Wells 1 and 2 are not subject to the flow protection threshold specified in Section 5.

21. Prior to supplying water for any use not authorized pursuant to Sections 2 or 6 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

22. 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.

23. Commission Docket Nos. 19930510, 20100608, and 20170609 shall remain effective through September 30, 2020, whereupon they shall be superseded.

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.