



SUSQUEHANNA RIVER BASIN COMMISSION

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Docket No. 20210906

Approval Date: September 17, 2021

PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY FACILITY: BLUE AND WHITE GOLF COURSES

**Groundwater Withdrawal (30-Day Average) of 0.960 mgd from Well UN-37
and Consumptive Use (Peak Day) of up to 1.620 mgd from
Well UN-37, Well UN-28A, and Campus 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 renewal of the project described herein in accordance with the conditions set forth below.

The project sponsor irrigates two golf courses with water supplied by two wells (Wells UN-37 and UN-28A) and through a service connection with the Pennsylvania State University Campus System. 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 0.960 million gallons per day (mgd) from Well UN-37 and the consumptive use of water for golf course irrigation under Commission Docket No. 19890106-1. The project sponsor submitted a renewal application to the Commission requesting approval to withdraw up to 0.960 mgd (30-day average) from Well UN-37, and consumptive use up to 1.620 mgd (peak day) for golf course irrigation. This approval authorizes the continued withdrawal from Well UN-37 and consumptive use at the requested rates.

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	
Project Sponsor:	Pennsylvania State University
Approval Types:	Groundwater Withdrawal and Consumptive Use
Past Docket Nos.:	19890106-1
Authorized Water Use Purpose:	Golf Course Irrigation
Municipality:	Ferguson Township and State College Borough
County:	Centre County
State:	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	
Withdrawal Type:	Groundwater
Approved Source:	Well UN-37
Subbasin:	West Branch Susquehanna
Watershed Boundary Dataset (WBD):	0205020401 (Spring Creek)
Withdrawal Location (degrees):	Lat: 40.790186 N Long: 77.879181 W
Special Flow Protection Required:	No

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 72-hour, constant-rate aquifer test of Well UN-37 was conducted on September 11 through 14, 2017, pumping at an average rate of 656 gallons per minute (gpm). Due to observed interference with several nearby domestic water wells, the project sponsor conducted supplemental testing of Well UN-37 while monitoring the domestic wells on September 15 through 18, 2020, at an average rate of 670 gpm.

Aquifer testing of Well UN-37 demonstrated the potential for significant adverse impacts to two residential wells and indicates that impacts to another residential well may occur. Staff recommends mitigation of the anticipated impacts to the two wells in accordance with the approved mitigation plan, as provided in Special Condition 23. To confirm that the mitigation was successful and confirm that impacts to the third residential well will not be significant, staff recommends monitoring of the three wells in accordance with Special Condition 25.

Commission staff determined that the withdrawal from Well UN-37 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	
30-Day Average Withdrawal (mgd):	0.960
Maximum Instantaneous Withdrawal Rate (gpm):	670 (Not to Exceed)
Peak Day Withdrawal (mgd):	0.960

The withdrawal is 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:	1. Wells UN-28A and UN-37 2. Public Water Supply – Pennsylvania State University Campus System
Peak Day Consumptive Use Amount (mgd):	1.620 (Not to Exceed)
Authorized Project Consumptive Uses:	Golf Course Irrigation
Consumptive Use Mitigation Type:	Payment of consumptive use mitigation fee

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

Section 7. Existing Approved Withdrawals and Consumptive Uses

The project does not have any other existing approved withdrawals and all consumptive use is approved with this action.

Section 8. Grandfathering Determination – Withdrawals and Consumptive Use

The project’s consumptive use is subject to mitigation requirements, as per 18 CFR § 806.22(b). For the purposes of this project, 0.648 mgd was determined to be the project’s pre-1971 consumptive use and is considered exempt from consumptive use mitigation requirements.

On December 18, 2019, the project sponsor submitted a grandfathered water use registration under 18 CFR §§ 806.40-45 for Well UN-28A.

Section 9. 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 use, 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 8. The project sponsor shall maintain and monitor the accuracy of the measuring devices in accordance with the manufacturer's specifications.

5. The project's consumptive use is subject to mitigation requirements, as per 18 CFR § 806.22(b). For the purposes of this project, 0.648 mgd was determined to be the project's pre-1971 consumptive use and is considered to not be subject to consumptive use mitigation requirements. To satisfy the Commission's current mitigation requirements for consumptive use, the project sponsor shall make quarterly payments to the Commission at the rate specified in the effective Regulatory Program Fee Schedule, as modified from time to time by the Commission. Payments shall be made quarterly and shall be calculated by applying this rate to the total amount of water consumptively used by the project during the preceding calendar quarter. 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.

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 or consumptive use that would exceed the amounts listed herein or to add a source used for consumptive use that is not listed in Sections 3, 6, or 8.

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 10. Special Conditions

20. The project sponsor shall keep daily records of the project's withdrawal and consumptive use for the sources listed in Sections 3, 6, and 8. Daily water level data shall be recorded for Well UN-37 during the irrigation season (April through September). During the non-irrigation season, the project sponsor shall record weekly groundwater elevations from Well UN-37.

21. Groundwater elevation data from Well UN-28A shall be recorded weekly, unless used as a source for irrigation or public water supply. If Well UN-28A is used as a source of irrigation, groundwater elevation data shall be recorded in accordance with the schedule above for Well UN-37. If Well UN-28A is used a source for public water supply, daily groundwater elevation data shall be recorded and reported.

22. The project sponsor 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.

23. Prior to July 1, 2022, the project sponsor shall implement the conditionally approved mitigation plan. During implementation of the plan, the project sponsor should coordinate any changes with Commission staff to ensure that the mitigation being provided meets the intent of the mitigation.

24. Within thirty (30) days of completing mitigation activities at the two domestic wells, the project sponsor shall submit to the Commission documentation confirming that all activities were completed in accordance with the approved mitigation plan. The project sponsor should coordinate with Commission staff to ensure that the mitigation was completed to the satisfaction of the property owner. Mitigation will not be considered complete until Commission staff responds, in writing, with a determination that mitigation has been completed in accordance with the approved mitigation plan.

25. Within thirty (30) days of withdrawals from Well UN-37 exceeding the 30-day average withdrawal of 0.456 mgd, the project sponsor shall notify the Commission that withdrawals exceed 0.456 mgd and implement the approved domestic well monitoring plan. Interpretive annual reports providing the monitoring data and documenting the results of the domestic well monitoring during the previous irrigation season must be provided to the Commission by December 31. The first interpretive report is due December 31, 2022, regardless of the status of monitoring as described in the monitoring plan. Should the groundwater elevation data indicate that unacceptable impacts occur as a result of operating Well UN-37 at the approved rate, the Commission may impose additional conditions on the use of Well UN-37 or require that additional mitigation be completed. Once implemented, collection of groundwater elevation data from the three domestic wells will be required for the remainder of the term of the approval unless Commission staff finds that sufficient data has been collected to confirm that long-term operation of Well UN-37 at or near its approved consecutive 30-day average rate will not cause an adverse impact to the domestic wells. Commission staff will notify the project sponsor, in writing, if the domestic well monitoring required herein has confirmed that no significant adverse impacts will occur and that the required monitoring may cease.

26. The project sponsor is required to apply for and obtain approval prior to any increase in withdrawal from grandfathered sources that would exceed the approved quantity.

27. In accordance with 18 CFR § 806.4(a)(1)(iv) and § 806.4(a)(2)(v), a change of ownership of the facility or project will forfeit the grandfathered status and subject pre-regulation withdrawals and consumptive uses to Commission review and approval.

28. The meter for Well UN-37 was installed on July 28, 2017; therefore, the next meter certification is due no later than July 28, 2022. The date of the last meter certification for the Pennsylvania State University Campus System interconnect is unknown; therefore, this meter 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.

29. Prior to the initiation of a withdrawal from Well UN-28A, the project sponsor shall install and maintain metering on the withdrawal in accordance with 18 CFR § 806.30 and the approved metering plan. The project sponsor shall notify the Commission, in writing, and submit digital photographs of the meter when installed, and confirm the serial number of the meter. Withdrawal from Well UN-28A shall not commence until Commission staff has approved the meter installation and notified the project sponsor of such approval. Certification of meter accuracy shall be provided to the Commission no less frequent than once every five (5) years from the date of installation/last certification.

30. Except as authorized pursuant to Special Condition 32, 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.

31. 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 Special Condition 32, including daily quantities supplied.

32. 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.

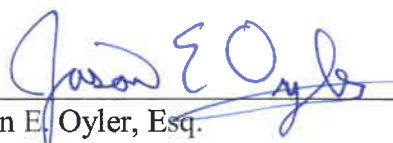
Section 11. Term

33. This approval shall be effective October 1, 2021, and shall remain effective until September 30, 2036. As specified in 18 CFR § 806.31(e), if the project sponsor submits an application on or before March 31, 2036, 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.

34. Commission Docket No. 19890106-1 shall remain effective through September 30, 2021, 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 17, 2021.

Dated: September 20, 2021



Jason E. Oyler, Esq.