



SUSQUEHANNA RIVER BASIN COMMISSION

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Docket No. 20211209

Approval Date: December 17, 2021

WALKER TOWNSHIP WATER ASSOCIATION, INC

Groundwater Withdrawals (30-Day Averages) of

**0.317 mgd from Hecla Well 1 and 0.432 mgd from Zion Well 2,
Combined Interim Withdrawal Limit of 0.749 mgd from Hecla Well 1 and Zion Well 2,
Combined Final Withdrawal Limit of 0.568 mgd from Hecla Well 1 and Zion Well 2,
and Total System Withdrawal Limit (30-Day Average) of 0.874 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 groundwater sources (Hecla Well 1, Zion Well 2, and Snyderstown Well 3), all of which are incorporated into 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 0.320 million gallons per day (mgd) from Hecla Well 1 (formerly Nittany Country Club Well No. 1) under Commission Docket No. 19910302, and 0.600 mgd from Zion Well 2 (formerly Sand Ridge Well No. 3) under Commission Docket No. 19950906. The project sponsor submitted groundwater withdrawal renewal applications requesting approval to withdraw up to 0.320 mgd from Hecla Well 1 and 0.432 mgd from Zion Well 2. This approval authorizes continued withdrawals at the reduced rate of 0.317 mgd from Hecla Well 1 and at the requested reduced rate from Zion Well 2, and increases the total system withdrawal limit established under Commission Docket No. 20070905-1 from 0.753 mgd to 0.874 mgd consistent with the 15-year projected demand through 2036. The reported maximum 30-day average demand for the public water supply system is approximately 0.774 mgd. This approval also establishes an interim combined withdrawal limit of 0.749 mgd for withdrawals from Hecla Well 1 and Zion Well 2, and a final combined withdrawal limit of 0.568 mgd from Hecla Well 1 and Zion Well 2 as provided for in Special Condition 24.

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	
Project Sponsor:	Walker Township Water Association, Inc
Approval Type:	Groundwater Withdrawal
Past Docket Nos.:	19910302 and 19950906
Authorized Water Use Purpose:	Public Water Supply
Municipality:	Walker Township
County:	Centre County
State:	Pennsylvania

Section 3. Source Information

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

Source Information	
Withdrawal Type:	Groundwater
Approved Sources:	Hecla Well 1 and Zion Well 2
Subbasin:	West Branch Susquehanna
Watershed Boundary Dataset (WBD):	0205020403 (Fishing Creek) 0205020404 (Bald Eagle Creek)
Withdrawal Location (degrees)*:	Lat: -- Long: --
Special Flow Protection Required:	No
* Specific location information concerning discrete water-related project features has been withheld for security reasons.	

Section 4. Aquifer Testing

Commission staff determined that sufficient data is available to complete the necessary hydrogeologic evaluation and on November 23, 2021, approved alternative hydrogeologic evaluations (AHEs) for Hecla Well 1 and Zion Well 2. In support of the AHEs, the project sponsor had provided the required groundwater availability analysis, historical withdrawal and

water level data, the results of historical aquifer testing, and evaluation of current operational data to historical testing results.

Commission staff determined that the withdrawal from Hecla Well 1 partially dewateres a significant water-bearing zone in Hecla Well 1 during dry hydrologic conditions. To avoid dewatering the uppermost significant water-bearing zone, the project sponsor programmed a low level shutoff switch into their Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system that ceases withdrawals when water levels reach 979 feet above mean sea level (AMSL). Staff recommends that the project sponsor maintain the low level shutoff switch in accordance with Special Condition 22.

Historical withdrawal data indicate that Hecla Well 1 is not capable of reliably providing 0.317 mgd (30-day average) while maintaining water levels equal to or greater than 979 feet AMSL. However, operational data indicate that Hecla Well 1 is able to support withdrawals of 0.317 mgd when hydrologic conditions allow, which occurs frequently during wet periods.

Because Hecla Well 1 and Zion Well 2 combined cannot reliably provide sufficient quantity to meet demand within the portion of the system served only by those wells, staff recommends that the project sponsor evaluate and implement added capacity to this portion of the system through interconnections with other public water supply systems, installation of a booster station to allow increased utilization of Snyderstown Well 3, development of another source, or other means, as prescribed in Special Condition 23.

Staff recommends establishing a combined withdrawal limit from Hecla Well 1 and Zion Well 2 as prescribed in the table in Section 5 and Special Condition 24, which includes a higher interim withdrawal limit to provide operational flexibility while the project sponsor adds capacity to the portion of the system served only by Hecla Well 1 and Zion Well 2 in accordance with Special Condition 23.

Commission staff determined that the reduced withdrawal from Hecla Well 1 and the requested rate from Zion Well 2 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 withdrawals approved hereunder are subject to the quantitative limits and restrictions set forth in the table below.

Approved Withdrawal Quantities and Limitations		
	Hecla Well 1	Zion Well 2
30-Day Average Withdrawal (mgd):	0.317	0.432
Maximum Instantaneous Withdrawal Rate (gpm) (Not to Exceed):	220	300
Peak Day Withdrawal (mgd):	0.317	0.432

Approved Withdrawal Quantities and Limitations (continued)	
Interim Combined Withdrawal Limit – Hecla Well 1 and Zion Well 2*:	0.749
Final Combined Withdrawal Limit – Hecla Well 1 and Zion Well 2:	0.568
Total System Withdrawal Limit – Hecla Well 1, Zion Well 2, and Snyderstown Well 3 (30-Day Average) (mgd):	0.874
* Interim combined withdrawal limit is effective until December 31, 2026, in accordance with Special Condition 24. gpm – gallons per minute	

The withdrawals are 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
Snyderstown Well 3	0.523	20070905	September 12, 2022

Section 7. Grandfathering Determination – Withdrawals

All withdrawals used by the project have Commission approval.

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 meters 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 locations 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 project sponsor shall comply with the water conservation requirements and reduce system water losses to less than twenty (20) percent to comply with 18 CFR § 806.25(a)(1). The project sponsor shall reduce system losses and achieve compliance with the water conservation requirements by December 31, 2024. If the project sponsor has not reduced system losses to less than twenty (20) percent by December 31, 2024, but has been actively working to resolve Special Condition 24, the project sponsor may request an extension and provide justification for the extension. Commission staff will determine if the extension is warranted based on the progress completed by the project sponsor. The project sponsor shall report to the Commission annually on the progress made pursuant to this requirement. Annual reports are due within sixty (60) days after the close of the preceding calendar year. If the project sponsor can show that system water losses are below twenty (20) percent for two (2) consecutive calendar years, annual reports for the remainder of the five (5)-year period may no longer be required following written notification from Commission staff.

21. The date of the last meter certification for Hecla Well 1 was July 29, 2021; therefore, the next meter certification for Hecla Well 1 is due no later than July 29, 2026. Within one (1) year of the date of this approval, meter certification for Zion Well 2 shall be submitted to the Commission. 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.

22. To avoid dewatering or partially dewatering a significant water-bearing zone in Hecla Well 1, drawdown shall be limited to 979 feet AMSL. The project sponsor shall maintain the previously installed automatic low level shutoff switch that ceases withdrawals from Hecla Well 1 at the prescribed elevation.

23. Because current and future demand for the portion of the public water supply system served by Hecla Well 1 and Zion Well 2 exceeds the final combined withdrawal limit established herein, the project sponsor shall submit a water resource development plan to evaluate and develop additional capacity to support that portion of the public water supply system, as needed. The water resource development plan shall be submitted to the Commission by March 12, 2022, for review and, if appropriate, approval by Commission staff. The approved water resource development plan shall be implemented by December 31, 2026.

24. To avoid over-allocating the resources of the system, an interim combined withdrawal limit of 0.749 mgd shall be effective until December 31, 2026, after which a combined withdrawal limit of 0.568 mgd will become effective for the remainder of the approval. If the project sponsor has not completed Special Condition 23 within five (5) years, but has been actively working to resolve Special Condition 23, the project sponsor may request an extension of the interim limit and provide justification for the extension. Commission staff will determine if the extension is warranted based on the progress completed by the project sponsor and ongoing system demands.

25. The project sponsor 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, including daily quantities supplied.

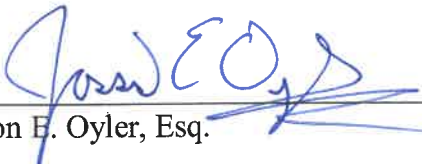
Section 10. Term

26. This approval shall be effective January 1, 2022, and shall remain effective until December 31, 2036. As specified in 18 CFR § 806.31(e), if the project sponsor submits an application on or before June 30, 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.

27. Commission Docket Nos. 19910302 and 19950906 shall remain effective through December 31, 2021, whereupon they 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 December 17, 2021.

Dated: December 20, 2021



Jason E. Oyler, Esq.