



SUSQUEHANNA RIVER BASIN COMMISSION

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Docket No. 20220312

Approval Date: March 17, 2022

Correction Issue Date: July 8, 2022

GEISINGER HEALTH

**Groundwater Withdrawals (30-Day Averages) of
0.075 mgd from Well 3 and 0.266 mgd from Mine Shaft Well, and
Consumptive Use (30-Day Average) of up to 0.499 mgd
from Well 3, Mine Shaft Well, 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.

The project sponsor maintains and operates a water supply system for a medical center that includes two groundwater sources (Well 3 and Mine Shaft Well) and a service connection with a public water supply system. Based on information provided by the project sponsor, no other sources are operated by the project.

The Commission previously approved the withdrawal of 0.140 million gallons per day (mgd) (30-day average) from Well 3 under Commission Docket No. 19910103 and the consumptive use of up to 0.499 mgd (30-day average) under Commission Docket No. 19910103-3. The project sponsor submitted renewal applications requesting approval to withdraw up to 0.075 mgd from Well 3 and consumptively use up to 0.499 mgd (30-day average). This approval authorizes continued withdrawals at the requested rate and consumptive use at the requested rate.

An error in Special Condition 23 was corrected on July 8, 2022, by clarifying the groundwater elevation monitoring requirement is for only Well 3. All other aspects reflect the original approval and should be read based on the date of the original approval.

During the renewal process, Commission staff discovered that the Mine Shaft Well was not registered in accordance with 18 CFR Part 806, Subpart E. Consistent with applicable Commission regulations, the Mine Shaft Well is being recognized, assessed, and regulated with this docket approval.

This approval authorizes the continued withdrawal from Well 3 and consumptive use at the facility at the requested rate, and establishes a withdrawal quantity for the Mine Shaft Well that is consistent with the historical withdrawal 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:	Geisinger Health
Approval Types:	Groundwater Withdrawal and Consumptive Use
Previous Docket Nos.:	19910103, 19910103-1, 19910103-2, and 19910103-3
Authorized Water Use Purpose:	Medical Center Institutional Use
Municipality:	Mahoning Township
County:	Montour 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	
Withdrawal Type:	Groundwater
Approved Sources:	Well 3 and Mine Shaft Well
Subbasin:	Lower Susquehanna
Watershed Boundary Dataset (WBD):	0205010710 (Lower Susquehanna River)
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 are available to complete the necessary hydrogeologic evaluation and approved an Alternative Hydrogeologic Evaluation (AHE) for Well 3 on February 8, 2022. In support of the AHE, the project sponsor 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.

Historical operational data indicates that the water level in Well 3 could be drawn down to the top of the pump, which is located at 355.19 feet above mean sea level (AMSL). The project sponsor appropriately installed a cutoff switch to ensure that the water level in Well 3 is not drawn down to the top of the pump. To maintain protection of the pump, Commission staff recommends that the project sponsor maintain a water level cutoff switch as prescribed in Special Condition 21.

Commission staff determined that the withdrawal from Well 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.

The project sponsor did not submit a grandfathering registration for the Mine Shaft Well under 18 CFR Part 806.41, forfeiting the grandfathered status of the withdrawal. In recognizing and assessing the Mine Shaft Well, staff reviewed the hydrogeologic setting, nearby private supply wells, nearby water resources, and limited available historical operations data to establish withdrawal quantities for the Mine Shaft Well that are consistent with historical use. Standard review and application materials will be required for the Mine Shaft Well at the next renewal.

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		
	Well 3	Mine Shaft Well
30-Day Average Withdrawal (mgd):	0.075	0.266
Maximum Instantaneous Withdrawal Rate (gpm) (Not to Exceed):	100	300
Peak Day Withdrawal (mgd)	0.144	0.432
gpm – gallons per minute		

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:	1. Well 3 2. Mine Shaft Well 3. Public Water Supply – Danville Municipal Authority
30-Day Average Consumptive Use Amount (mgd):	0.499 (Not to Exceed)

Approved Consumptive Use Quantities and Limitations (continued)	
Authorized Project Consumptive Uses:	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Institutional use2. Evaporative cooling3. Boiler makeup4. Incidental uses associated with constructing and operating a medical center
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 other existing approved withdrawals or consumptive uses.

Section 8. Unapproved Sources

With this approval, all withdrawals used by the project have Commission approval.

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'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 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. For the purposes of this project, 0.043 mgd was determined to be the project's pre-1971 consumptive use and is considered to not be subject to consumptive use mitigation payment. 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.

5. 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.

6. 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.

7. 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.

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

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

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

11. 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.

12. 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.

13. 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.

14. 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.

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

16. 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 or 6.

17. 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

18. Prior to operation of the Dietary Cooling Tower, or any other cooling towers or consumptive uses not identified in the metering plan, the project sponsor shall submit for review and approval by Commission staff, in accordance with 18 CFR § 806.30, a revised metering plan. The revised metering plan should provide the make, model, serial, and photographs of the meter(s) installed to calculate consumptive use from the Dietary Cooling Tower or other consumptive use, and certify the accuracy of the related measuring devices to within five (5) percent of actual flow. The changes shall not be operated until the project sponsor receives written approval of the amended plan.

19. The date of the last meter certification was October 20, 2021; therefore, the next meter certification is due no later than October 20, 2026. 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.

20. 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.

21. The project sponsor shall continue to maintain a water level cutoff switch above the top of the pump in Well 3.

22. Within ninety (90) days of automating collection of flow meter readings at the facility, but no later than December 31, 2022, the project sponsor shall submit an updated metering plan to account for the automation and daily meter readings. Commission staff may

grant an extension to the December 31, 2022, deadline, provided sufficient justification is provided.

23. The project sponsor shall keep records of the project's groundwater elevations for Well 3, in accordance with the approved groundwater elevation monitoring plans.

24. The project sponsor shall keep records of the project's withdrawals and consumptive use for the sources listed in Sections 3, 5, and 6, in accordance with the approved metering plan. After Special Condition 22 is satisfied and the updated metering plan is approved, the project sponsor shall keep daily records of the project's withdrawals and consumptive use for sources listed in Sections 3, 5, and 6.

25. The project sponsor shall report its withdrawals and groundwater elevation 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.

Section 11. Term

26. This approval shall be effective April 1, 2022, and shall remain effective until March 31, 2037. As specified in 18 CFR § 806.31(e), if the project sponsor submits an application on or before September 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. 19910103, 19910103-1, 19910103-2, and 19910103-3 shall remain effective through March 31, 2022, 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 March 17, 2022, and corrected on July 8, 2022.

Dated: July 8, 2022



Jason E. Oyler, Esq.