



# SUSQUEHANNA RIVER BASIN COMMISSION

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**Docket No. 20220916**

**Approval Date: September 15, 2022**

## **TOWN OF ONEONTA FACILITY: SOUTHSIDE WATER DISTRICT**

**Groundwater Withdrawals (30-Day Averages) of  
0.720 mgd from Well PW-1 and 0.720 mgd from Well PW-2, and  
Total System Withdrawal Limit (30-Day Average) of 0.460 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 project described herein in accordance with the conditions set forth below.

The project sponsor is developing a public water supply system that will include two groundwater sources (Wells PW-1 and PW-2), both of which are incorporated into the total system limit. Based on information provided by the project sponsor, no other sources will be operated by the project. This approval authorizes withdrawals from Wells PW-1 and PW-2 at the requested rates and establishes a total system withdrawal limit of 0.460 million gallons per day (mgd), which is consistent with the 15-year projected demand through 2037.

Should demand exceed the total system limit established herein, the project sponsor may submit a minor modification application in accordance with 18 CFR § 806.18(c)(7) to request an increase to 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 New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) and the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) 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>	Town of Oneonta
<b>Facility Name:</b>	Southside Water District
<b>Approval Type:</b>	Groundwater Withdrawal
<b>Authorized Water Use Purpose:</b>	Public Water Supply
<b>Municipality:</b>	Town of Oneonta
<b>County:</b>	Otsego County
<b>State:</b>	New York

### 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	
<b>Withdrawal Type:</b>	Groundwater
<b>Approved Sources:</b>	Wells PW-1 and PW-2
<b>Subbasin:</b>	Upper Susquehanna
<b>Watershed Boundary Dataset (WBD):</b>	
Well PW-1	0205010106 (Headwater of Susquehanna River)
Well PW-2	0205010104 (Charlotte Creek)
<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 72-hour, constant-rate aquifer test of Well PW-2 was conducted on September 28, 2021, through October 1, 2021, pumping at an average rate of 504 gallons per minute (gpm). A 48-hour, constant-rate aquifer test of Well PW-1 was conducted on October 6 through 8, 2021, pumping at an average rate of 502 gpm. Because the aquifer testing was completed at rates of approximately 500 gpm, staff recommends a maximum instantaneous withdrawal rate of 500 gpm for each well, which is less than the requested maximum instantaneous rate of 845 gpm.

Commission staff determined that the withdrawals from Wells PW-1 and PW-2 at the recommended 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.

## 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 PW-1	Well PW-2
<b>30-Day Average Withdrawal (mgd):</b>	0.720	0.720
<b>Maximum Instantaneous Withdrawal Rate (gpm) (Not to Exceed):</b>	500	500
<b>Peak Day Withdrawal (mgd):</b>	0.720	0.720
<b>Total System Withdrawal Limit – Wells PW-1 and PW-2 (30-Day Average) (mgd):</b>	0.460	

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

## Section 6. Existing Approved Withdrawals

The project does not have existing approved withdrawals.

## Section 7. Grandfathering Determination – Withdrawals

The project did not utilize surface water withdrawals or groundwater withdrawals prior to November 11, 1995, or July 13, 1978, respectively.

## 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. Prior to any withdrawal from the sources listed in Section 3, the project sponsor shall install and maintain metering in accordance with 18 CFR § 806.30 and the approved metering plan. The project sponsor shall notify the Commission, in writing, and submit photographs of the meter when it has been installed, provide the serial number of the meter, and certify the accuracy of the measuring device to within five (5) percent of actual flow. Withdrawals shall not

commence until Commission staff has approved the implementation of the approved metering plan and notified the project sponsor of such approval.

4. 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.

5. The project sponsor shall adhere to the groundwater elevation monitoring plan reviewed and approved by Commission staff for the sources listed in Section 3. Prior to any withdrawal from the sources listed in Section 3, the project sponsor shall install and maintain water level monitoring equipment in accordance with 18 CFR § 806.30. The project sponsor shall notify the Commission, in writing, and submit make, model, serial numbers, and photographs of the water level monitoring equipment when it has been installed and certify the accuracy of the measuring devices. Withdrawals shall not commence until Commission staff has approved the implementation of the approved groundwater elevation monitoring plan and notified the project sponsor of such approval. The project sponsor shall maintain and monitor the accuracy of the measuring devices in accordance with the manufacturer's specifications.

6. The project sponsor shall keep daily records of the project's withdrawals and groundwater elevations for the sources listed in Section 3, 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.

7. 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.

8. 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.

9. 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.

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

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

12. The project sponsor shall register with the appropriate agency all groundwater sources described herein, as may be required by regulations of the member jurisdiction. The project sponsor shall also satisfy annual usage, capacity, and conservation reporting requirements in the form and manner prescribed by NYSDEC's Division of Water.

13. 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.

14. 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. The foregoing shall include, but not be limited to, any applicable permitting requirements of NYSDEC. 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. Furthermore, no water withdrawn by this project may be used in natural gas well development using High Volume Hydraulic Fracturing in New York State.

15. 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.

16. 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.

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

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

19. 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.

20. If the Commission determines that the operation of the project's groundwater withdrawals adversely affect 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

21. The project sponsor has indicated that emergency interconnection of the Woodland and Southside Water Districts could be completed in the future. The project sponsor should contact Commission staff and discuss potential interconnections prior to doing so, as review of the Woodland Water District wells may be required.

22. 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

23. The project sponsor has a period of three (3) years from the date of this approval to commence the withdrawals or this approval will automatically expire, unless an extension is requested, in writing, by the project sponsor no later than one hundred twenty (120) days prior to such expiration and approved by the Commission as provided in 18 CFR § 806.31(b).

24. This approval is effective until September 14, 2037. As specified in 18 CFR § 806.31(e), if the project sponsor submits an application on or before March 14, 2037, 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.

**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 15, 2022.

Dated: September 16, 2022

  
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Jason E. Oyler, Esq.