



# SUSQUEHANNA RIVER BASIN COMMISSION

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**Docket No. 20221206**

**Approval Date: December 15, 2022**

## **HUGHESVILLE BOROUGH AUTHORITY**

**Groundwater Withdrawals (30-Day Averages) of 0.260 mgd from Well 1,  
0.260 mgd from Well 2, and up to 1.440 mgd from Well 3;  
and Total System Withdrawal Limit of 1.384 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 (Wells 1, 2, and 3). Based on information provided by the project sponsor, no other sources are operated by the project.

The Commission previously approved 30-day average withdrawals of 0.260 million gallons per day (mgd) from Well 1, 0.260 mgd from Well 2, and 1.440 mgd from Well 3 under Commission Docket No. 20070604. On December 10, 2021, the project sponsor submitted groundwater withdrawal renewal applications requesting approval to withdraw up to 0.260 mgd from Well 1, 0.260 mgd from Well 2, and 1.440 mgd from Well 3 (30-day averages), respectively. This approval authorizes continued withdrawals at the requested rates for Wells 1, 2, and 3, and reduces the total system withdrawal limit established under Commission Docket No. 20070604 from 2.500 mgd to 1.384 mgd, which is consistent with the 15-year projected system demand through 2037 as determined by Commission staff.

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 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	
<b>Project Sponsor:</b>	Hughesville Borough Authority
<b>Approval Type:</b>	Groundwater Withdrawal
<b>Previous Docket No.:</b>	20070604
<b>Authorized Water Use Purpose:</b>	Public Water Supply
<b>Municipality:</b>	Wolf Township
<b>County:</b>	Lycoming County
<b>State:</b>	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	
<b>Withdrawal Type:</b>	Groundwater
<b>Approved Sources:</b>	Wells 1, 2, and 3
<b>Subbasin:</b>	West Branch Susquehanna
<b>Watershed Boundary Dataset (WBD):</b>	0205020608 (Muncy 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 project sponsor requested that the requirements of 18 CFR § 806.12 be considered satisfied using an evaluation completed by Commission staff under the Public Water Supply Assistance Program (PWSAP). Staff evaluated hydrogeologic setting information; results of a historical 72-hour aquifer test of Well 3; historical withdrawal and groundwater elevation data for Wells 1, 2, and 3 provided by the project sponsor; and prepared Voluntary Action Plans (Plans) that provided a summary of an availability analysis, available data, a hydrogeologic evaluation, and renewal options for Wells 1, 2, and 3. Commission staff evaluated the available hydrogeologic and operational data and found that the existing data meets the essential purpose of testing and provides the necessary data to evaluate potential impacts to other users, impacts to the environment, and the sustainability of the withdrawal at withdrawal rates of up to 0.260 mgd from Well 1, 0.260 mgd from Well 2, and at the previously tested rate of 1.440 mgd from Well 3 without requiring new testing or additional hydrogeologic evaluation. Accordingly, the Plans

provided the project sponsor with an option to accept staff's evaluation of hydrogeological data for Wells 1, 2, and 3 and apply for quantities consistent with or less than the historically tested rates identified in the Plans and utilize Commission staff's hydrogeologic evaluation to support renewal.

The project sponsor utilized staff's evaluation, which determined that withdrawals from Well 1 at a rate of 0.260 mgd, from Well 2 at a rate of 0.260 mgd, and from Well 3 at a rate of 1.440 mgd should not cause permanent loss of aquifer storage, render competing supplies unreliable, or cause adverse impacts to the water resources of the basin. Staff determined the requirements under 18 CFR § 806.12 were met with the Commission approved aquifer test completed in 2006 for Well 3. The Plans analysis of the tested rates satisfies the hydrogeologic evaluation requirement of 18 CFR § 806.12 for Wells 1 and 2, and Alternative Hydrogeologic Evaluations were approved on November 16, 2022.

The Commission evaluated the Well 3 withdrawal at the previously tested rate of 1,000 gallons per minute (gpm) and found the withdrawal rate to be acceptable. However, the PADEP-approved rate was established at 600 gpm with the ability to increase to 1,000 gpm if the project sponsor should own or control sufficient wellhead protection area to support 1,000 gpm. Although the project sponsor currently does not own or control sufficient wellhead protection area to support 1,000 gpm, the project sponsor has indicated its intent to acquire control of the necessary wellhead protection area to gain PADEP approval for a higher rate. Therefore, staff recommends approval of Well 3 at up to 1,000 gpm and 1.440 mgd (30-day average), consistent with the PADEP permit, but Well 3 shall not be operated above 600 gpm and 0.864 mgd in accordance with Special Condition 23 unless an increase is approved by PADEP.

## 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 1	Well 2	Well 3
30-Day Average Withdrawal (mgd):	0.260	0.260	1.440*
Maximum Instantaneous Withdrawal Rate (gpm) (Not to Exceed):	500	500	1,000*
Peak Day Withdrawal (mgd):	0.720	0.720	1.440*
Total System Withdrawal Limit – Wells 1, 2, and 3 (30-Day Average) (mgd):	1.384		
* The project sponsor shall not operate Well 3 above 600 gpm and 0.864 mgd except as allowed by Special Condition 23.			

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

## **Section 6. Grandfathering Determination – Withdrawals**

All withdrawals used by the project have Commission 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 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 Section 3. 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 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.

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 withdrawals that would exceed the amounts listed herein.

18. 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 8. Special Conditions**

19. 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 within five (5) years of the effective date of this docket approval unless the Commission grants an extension of time due to extenuating circumstances described, in writing, 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.

20. Flow meters were installed on August 31, 2021, for Well 1; March 5, 2020, for Well 2, and May 25, 2019, for Well 3; therefore, meter certifications are due no later than August 31, 2026, for each well. 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.

21. 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.

22. 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 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 for uses other than hydrocarbon development, including daily quantities supplied.

23. Prior to operating Well 3 at rates exceeding 600 gpm and 0.864 mgd (30-day average), the project sponsor shall notify the Commission that sufficient Zone I wellhead protection area for Well 3 has been controlled to allow an increase and provide confirmation that an increase of the PADEP-permitted rate for Well 3 has been approved. Operation at the increased rate shall not be initiated until the project sponsor receives a written response from the Commission acknowledging the change in the PADEP-permitted rate.

## Section 9. Term

24. This approval shall be effective January 1, 2023, and shall remain effective until December 31, 2037. As specified in 18 CFR § 806.31(e), if the project sponsor submits an application on or before June 30, 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.

25. Commission Docket No. 20070604 shall remain effective through December 31, 2022, 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 December 15, 2022.

Dated: December 16, 2022

  
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Jason E. Oyler, Esq.