



SUSQUEHANNA RIVER BASIN COMMISSION

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Docket No. 20020814

Approval Date: August 15, 2002

SUSQUEHANNA VALLEY COUNTRY CLUB

Consumptive Water Use of Up to 0.235 mgd, for Golf Course Irrigation,
Monroe Township, Snyder County, Pennsylvania

Review Authority

This project is subject to review pursuant to Article 3, Section 3.10 of the Susquehanna River Basin Compact, P.L. 91-575, and Commission Regulations §803.4, relating to projects requiring review and approval, and §803.42, relating to the consumptive use of water. The Commission received the application on August 23, 2000.

Description

Purpose. The purpose of the application is to request approval for the consumptive use of water for irrigation of greens, tees, and fairways at an existing 18-hole golf course.

Location. The project is located in the Lower Susquehanna Subbasin, HUC 02050301, Rolling Green Run Watershed, Monroe Township, Snyder County, Pennsylvania.

Project Features. The project sponsor has requested approval for the consumptive use of water of up to 0.235 million gallons per day (mgd). Commission staff calculates the project's maximum average 30-day consumptive use to be 0.134 mgd and a peak-day consumptive water use to be 0.168 mgd based on irrigation data for 2001; however, the irrigation system was redesigned in 2002 to use up to 0.235 mgd.

Nine holes of the golf course were constructed in 1918, and have been in continuous operation since that time. In 1958, the project sponsor enlarged the golf course to include an additional nine holes, constructed a storage pond, and installed an automatic irrigation system for greens, tees, and fairways. The project sponsor constructed a second storage pond on Rolling Green Run and installed a second pumping station in 1964. The irrigation system was modified and expanded in April 2002.

The primary source of water for the irrigation system is a withdrawal from the on-stream pond constructed in 1964. The withdrawal predates Commission Regulation §803.44, relating to surface-water withdrawals.

The project sponsor operates one on-site artesian well, as needed, to pump water to the on-stream pond and supplement its surface-water withdrawal to meet the golf course's irrigation demand and to maintain flow in the Rolling Green Run. The well was drilled in 1967 to a depth of 187 feet. The well is equipped with a pump having a rated capacity of 200 gallons per minute (gpm).

The on-stream pond is approximately 0.55 acres in size and stores an estimated 1 million gallons of water. The second pond, used for irrigation, is approximately 0.53 acres in size and stores an estimated 1 million gallons of water. Based on the maximum average 30-day use rate, the project sponsor has sufficient storage on-site for approximately 16 days of irrigation.

The project sponsor has withdrawn water from Rolling Green Run since 1964 with no passby structure or engineering controls in place.

Findings

The project's irrigation water use is subject to the Commission's consumptive water use approval and reporting requirements, as per Commission Regulation §803.42.

All water withdrawn from the storage ponds and used for golf course irrigation is considered to be used consumptively. The irrigation system has a meter that measures the quantity of water pumped. The pre-1971 consumptive water use by the project sponsor is calculated by Commission staff to be 0.138 mgd and, for purposes of this docket, this quantity of water is considered "grandfathered" and is exempt from water compensation requirements. The storage ponds predate the Commission's consumptive use regulation; therefore, the project sponsor is not required to provide compensation for the evaporative losses from the ponds.

The project's surface-water withdrawal has been in operation since 1964 with no passby criteria in use at the site. Rolling Green Run is a warm-water fishery (WWF) (Title 25, Chapter 93, of the Pa. Code) with an annual average daily flow (ADF) rate at the site of 2.14 cubic feet per second (cfs) (960 gallons per minute (gpm)). Commission staff has calculated the 7-day 10-year low flow (Q7-10 flow) in Rolling Green Run to be 0.050 cfs (22.4 gpm). The surface-water intake has a pump with the capacity of 400 gpm. The withdrawal is greater than 10 percent of the Q7-10 flow at the point of withdrawal, thereby requiring a passby flow to protect aquatic resources and downstream users.

Commission staff has calculated a passby flow of 20 percent of annual ADF to be 192 gpm. Because the project sponsor is using an on-stream pond as its source of water, the passby criteria must be modified to accommodate conditions when natural streamflow is less than 20 percent ADF. Therefore, staff recommends that the project sponsor allow a downstream release of water from the pond of 192 gpm, or an amount equal to the inflow of the stream to the pond, when streamflow is less than 192 gpm.

The well is used to fill the on-stream pond and supplement the surface-water withdrawal, as needed. The well has been in operation since 1967 and, therefore, predates Commission Regulation §803.43, relating to ground-water withdrawals. The grandfathered ground-water withdrawal from the well is estimated to be 138,000 gallons per day. Staff finds that the ground-water withdrawal by the project sponsor is not subject to review and approval under Commission Regulation §803.43 unless the

project sponsor increases its withdrawal from the well by 100,000 gpd over its grandfathered amount. Because the total rated pump capacity is 200 gpm (0.288 mgd), staff recommends that a meter be installed on the well in order to document the well's usage.

The project's consumptive use of water in excess of the grandfathered quantity is subject to water compensation requirements, as per Commission Regulation §803.42. To satisfy these requirements, the project sponsor proposes to make quarterly payments to the Commission in-lieu-of providing actual compensation water. The payment will be based on the quantity of water used for irrigation, minus the pre-1971 consumptive use of 0.138 mgd. If the daily grandfathered quantity exceeds the project's daily consumptive water use, that day's consumptive water use is considered to be zero.

The project is subject to water conservation requirements, as per Commission Regulation §804.20(c).

The project sponsor has paid the appropriate application fee in accordance with Commission Regulation §803.28 and in accordance with Commission Resolution 98-19, as amended by Commission Resolution 2000-06. The project sponsor has provided all proofs of notification, as called for in Commission Regulation §803.25.

The project is physically feasible, does not conflict with or adversely affect the Commission's Comprehensive Plan, and does not adversely influence the present or future use and development of the water resources of the basin.

Compliance Incentive Program

Commission staff has determined that the project sponsor is eligible to participate in the Commission's Compliance Incentive Program (CIP). Therefore, the project sponsor would not be subject to penalties for water consumed in violation of Commission Regulation §803.42 prior to January 1, 2001. In accordance with the CIP, payment to the Commission as a method of compensation for the project's consumptive water use shall be effective and applicable to all consumptive water used by the project beginning January 1, 2001.

Decision

The project's consumptive water use of up to 0.235 mgd is approved pursuant to Article 3, Section 3.10 of the Compact subject to the following conditions:

a. The project sponsor shall comply with all Commission regulations, including consumptive water use reporting requirements, as per Commission Regulation §803.42.

b. The project sponsor shall keep daily records of the project's consumptive water use, and shall report the data to the Commission quarterly, and as otherwise required. The daily quantity of water consumptively used shall be the quantity pumped to the irrigation system. The project sponsor shall maintain metering on the irrigation system, accurate to within five (5) percent.

c. Within sixty (60) days of the date of this approval, the project sponsor shall install and maintain metering on the on-site well, accurate to within five (5) percent, and keep daily records of the project's ground-water withdrawal. The project sponsor shall report the data to the Commission quarterly, and as otherwise required. The project sponsor may propose alternative monitoring to the Commission for staff review and approval. If the ground-water withdrawal exceeds the threshold contained in Commission Regulation §803.43, the project sponsor shall submit the appropriate application for review and approval by the Commission.

d. The project sponsor shall allow a downstream release of water from the pond located on Rolling Green Run of 0.427 cfs (192 gpm), or when streamflow into the pond is less than 192 gpm, an amount equal to the total inflow of the stream to the pond. The project sponsor shall install flow measurement devices that measure the inflow and outflow of the pond. The project sponsor shall keep daily records of the inflow and outflow of the pond and shall report the data to the Commission quarterly, and as otherwise required.

e. The project sponsor shall submit its design and a proposed construction schedule for the flow measurement devices cited in condition (d) above within sixty (60) days of the date of this approval for review and approval by Commission staff prior to any construction. Following approval, the project sponsor shall complete construction in accordance with the approved schedule, and shall provide to the Commission documentation that construction has been completed. The passby system shall be kept fully functional and free of debris. The Commission reserves the right to inspect the passby flow device and the flow measurement devices at any time.

f. To satisfy the Commission's current compensation requirements for consumptive water use set forth in Commission Regulation §803.42, the project sponsor shall make quarterly payments to the Commission based on the rate of \$0.14 per 1,000 gallons of water consumptively used by the project in excess of the grandfathered quantity. The daily quantity of water consumptively used shall be the quantity pumped to the irrigation system. Payment amounts shall be calculated by applying this rate to the amount of water used consumptively by the project, less the grandfathered quantity of 0.138 mgd, during the preceding calendar quarter. If the daily grandfathered quantity exceeds the project's daily consumptive water use, that day's consumptive water use is considered to be zero. 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 all consumptive users of water using this method of compliance, is subject to change at the Commission's discretion.

g. The project sponsor shall comply with Commission water conservation requirements contained in Commission Regulation §804.20(c).

h. The project sponsor is eligible to participate in the Commission's Compliance Incentive Program (CIP). Therefore, the project sponsor is not subject to any penalties for prior noncompliance. In accordance with the CIP, payment to the Commission as a method of compensation for the project's consumptive water use shall be effective and applicable to all water used consumptively by the project beginning January 1, 2001. The project sponsor shall provide records of its consumptive water use and make a payment to the Commission based on the rate of \$0.14 per 1,000 gallons of water consumptively used, above the grandfathered quantity of 0.138 mgd, during the period from January 1, 2001, until the

effective date of this approval. This payment shall be calculated and included in the first quarterly payment made by the project sponsor in accordance with the requirements of condition (f) above.

i. Commission approval shall not be construed to exempt the project sponsor from obtaining all necessary permits and/or approvals required for the project from other federal, state, or local government agencies having jurisdiction over the project. The Commission reserves the right to modify, suspend or revoke this action if the project sponsor fails to obtain or maintain such approvals.

j. The Commission reserves the right to inspect or investigate the project facility, and the project sponsor shall allow authorized employees or agents of the Commission, without advance notice or a search warrant, 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. Such employees or agents shall be authorized to conduct tests or sampling, to take photographs, to perform measurements, surveys, and other tests, to inspect the methods of construction, operation, or maintenance, to inspect all measurement equipment, to audit, examine, and copy books, papers, and records pertinent to any matter under investigation, and to take any other action necessary to assure that the project is constructed, operated, or maintained in accordance with the terms and conditions of this approval or any other rule, regulation, or order of the Commission.

k. If the project sponsor fails to comply with any term or condition of this docket, the Commission may suspend, modify, or revoke its approval of same, and may impose appropriate fines and penalties. Upon written notice by the Commission, the project sponsor shall have thirty (30) days to correct such noncompliance, unless an alternate period is specified in the notice. Failure to comply within thirty (30) days, or within the alternate period identified in the notice, shall result in a ninety (90)-day suspension of approval of this docket. If the project sponsor fails to address the noncompliance to the satisfaction of the Commission within the suspension period, this approval may be revoked. Nothing herein shall preclude the Commission from exercising its authority to immediately modify, suspend, or revoke this approval where it determines exigent circumstances warrant such action, or from imposing fines and penalties, regardless of the period of noncompliance.

l. The Commission reserves the right to reopen any project docket 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.

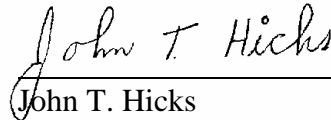
m. Commission approval confers no property rights upon the project sponsor. The securing of all rights necessary and incident to the project sponsor's development and operation of the project shall be the sole and exclusive responsibility of the project sponsor, and this approval shall be subject thereto.

n. This approval is effective until August 15, 2027. The project sponsor shall submit a renewal application by February 15, 2027, and obtain Commission approval prior to continuing operation beyond August 15, 2027.

o. If the project is discontinued for such a period of time and under such circumstances that an abandonment of the project may reasonably be inferred, the Commission may rescind the approval of the project unless a renewal is requested by the project sponsor and approved by the Commission.

By the Commission:

Dated: August 15, 2002



John T. Hicks
Chairman