Grandfathered Water Uses Registration Program

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Overview

- Introduction to Susquehanna River Basin Commission
- Program Background
- Registration Requirements
- Review and Determination
- Schedule
- Conclusion
- Q&A Session

Susquehanna River Basin

The Basin:

- 27,510-square-mile watershed
- Comprises 43 percent of the Chesapeake Bay watershed
- 4.2 million population
- 32,000+ miles of waterways

The Susquehanna River:

- 444 miles, largest tributary to the Chesapeake Bay
- Supplies 18 million gallons a minute to the Chesapeake Bay



Organizational Structure

- Federal-Interstate Compact Commission
- New York, Pennsylvania, Maryland and the United States



Brig. Gen. William H. Graham Commander, NAD US Army Corp of Engineers



Basil Seggos, Commissioner NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation



Patrick McDonnell, Secretary PA Dept. of Environmental Protection



Ben Grumbles, Secretary
MD Dept. of the
Environment

Overview

- Enhance public welfare through comprehensive planning, water supply allocation, and management of the water resources of the Basin.
- Broad water resource management authority -
 - Manage water resource impacts of facilities/projects
 - Avoid conflicts with other users
 - Standards for equal and uniform treatment
- Non-regulatory planning, water quality monitoring and drinking water protection activities.

WATER USES IN THE BASIN

























Grandfathering Water Uses Registration Program

- The Commission is launching a new program requiring registration of older, unpermitted water withdrawals and consumptive uses.
- These withdrawals and consumptive uses have been considered exempt from project review and approval (or *grandfathered*) under Commission regulations.
- The registration program will maintain those exemptions into the future, provided a project sponsor registers its grandfathered consumptive use and/or withdrawal within the two year window provided under Section 806.41.

What is Grandfathering?

- A grandfathered use or source is a:
 - Consumptive Use prior to Jan. 23, 1971.
 - Groundwater Withdrawal prior to July 13, 1978.
 - Surface Water Withdrawal prior to Nov. 11, 1995.
 - Combination of Sources prior to Jan. 1, 2007.
- A facility will have to be operating above applicable threshold volumes (20,000 gallons per day for consumptive uses and 100,000 gallons per day for withdrawals) in order to be grandfathered.

Registration Program Goals

• Better understand water uses in the Basin.

• Add certainty/ clarity and protections surrounding exempt/grandfathered facilities.

• Improve water management for all water users.

Registration Program Background

In 2016, the Commission completed a study that compiled all available state data to characterize basinwide water use and availability. Results indicate:

- Data gaps exist in certain areas that may have high cumulative water use;
- The data gap represents an estimated water use of nearly one billion gallons per day.
- Volume of approved water use roughly equals volume of the estimated "data gap", or grandfathered water use



CUMULATIVE WATER USE AND AVAILABILITY STUDY

for the Susquehanna River Basin

OVERVIEW

The Cumulative Water Use and Availability Study (CWUAS) represents the Susquehanna River Basin Commission's (Commission) most comprehensive analysis to date to characterize water use and availability for the Susquehanna River Basin. The effort was driven by the Commission's mission to wisely manage the water resources of the Basin, to assure short-term water resource availability, and to achieve long-term balance between healthy ecosystems and economic viability (Susquehanna River Basin Commission Comprehensive

The purpose of the study was to develop and implement an approach to comprehensively assess consumptive water use (CU) within the Basin. As such, the study closely examined water sustainability within the context of existing and projected water use compared to the amount of water estimated to be available during drier, low flow conditions. Overall, the Basin is largely well-balanced in terms of sustainability, with over 82 percent of the watersheds showing adequate water availability when considering approved water use. However, certain areas of the Basin (9 percent) do show potential for availability limitations based on the analysis and warrant further examination of assessed parameters such as water demand and hydrology. Lastly, the study demonstrates that current management practices have the potential for positive effects on managing water resources during

The scope and findings of the study include:

- · comprehensive quantification of consumptive water use;
- · determination of water capacity and availability;
- · development of two GIS-based assessment tools; and
- · consideration of protection, mitigation and enhancement measures.

The study analyses were conducted for 170 distinct watersheds covering the entire Basin. The watersheds correspond to the U.S. Geological Survey's (USGS) designated 10-digit Hydrologic Unit Codes (HUC-10). It is important to note that study results are representative of calculations that broadly characterize conditions across each watershed, but water availability and use can still vary spatially and by season within the individual

This summary discusses the methodologies employed for each of the study elements and the respective findings.

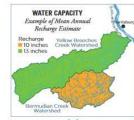






Figure 1. Conceptual model of key Cumulative Water Use and Availability Study components.

Registration of Grandfathered Water Uses

- This significant data gap challenges the Commission's ability to effectively manage the water resources of the Basin.
- The registration program provides for:
 - Knowing who these facilities are.
 - Knowing how much water they are withdrawing or consumptively using.
 - Establishing the exempt quantity of withdrawal and usage and ongoing reporting.

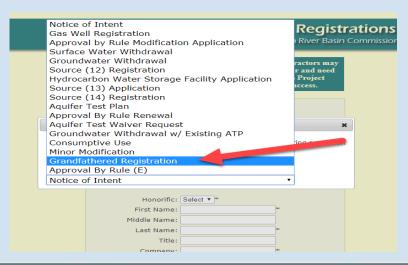
Required Information for Registration

- Facility contacts and location.
- Water withdrawals (sources).
- Description of consumptive uses.
- Metering and/or accounting methods for withdrawals and consumptive uses.
- Quantity data for the most recent five years.

Online Registration Website

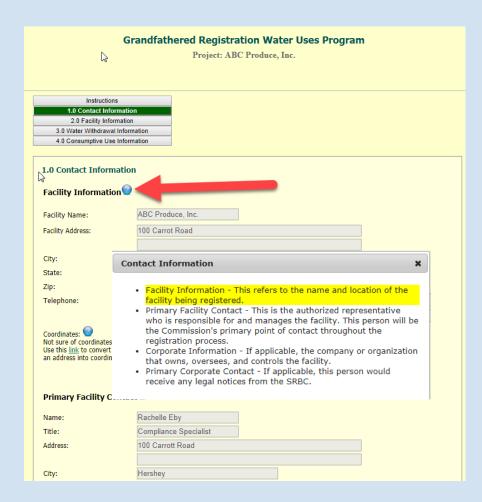
- Sign up for a user name, or use existing user name if previously submitted online applications
- Select "Grandfathering Registration" as registration or application type
- Add contact information as applicable





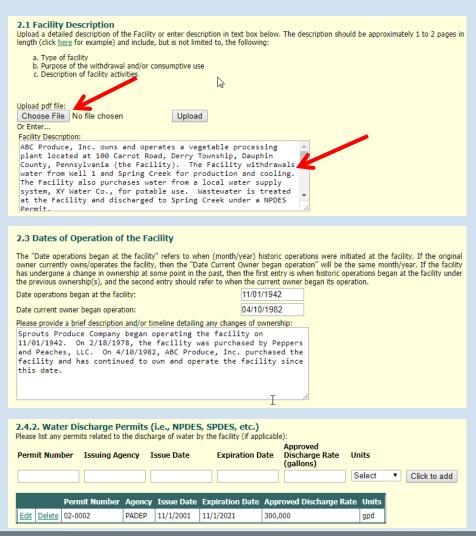
Instructions & Contact Information

- Read through instructions.
- Use tabs at the top of the page to move between sections of the registration.
- Contact information must be completed before the rest of the online form opens.
- Use blue help icons for more information.



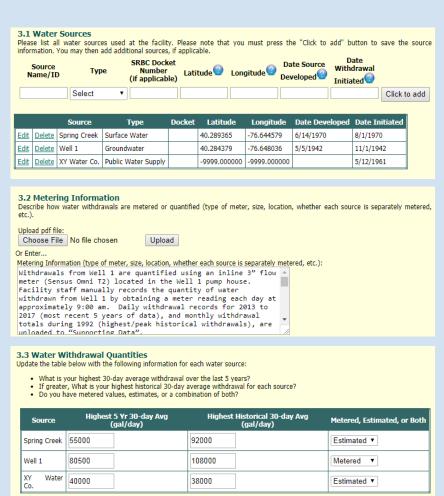
Facility Information

- Facility description.
- Dates of operation, including changes of ownership since 2007.
- Withdrawal and/or discharge permits from state agencies.
- Reporting to other state agencies.



Water Withdrawal Information

- Source and location.
- Date developed and when withdrawal initiated.
- Description of how withdrawals are quantified.
- Highest 30-day average
 - last five years required
 - historic optional
- Supporting data.

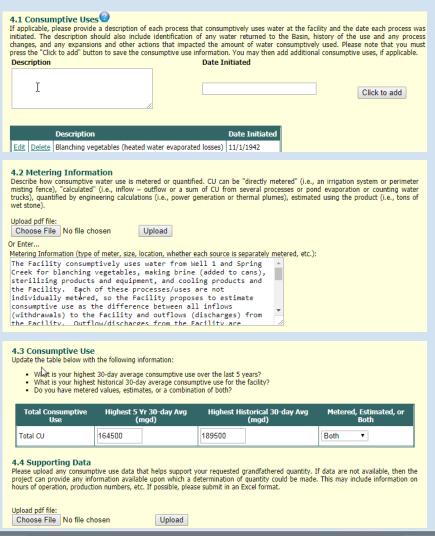


Consumptive Use of Water

- Consumptive use of water is any process where water is used and not returned to the Basin undiminished in quantity.
- Examples include irrigation, incorporation into product or bottling, chilling and heating losses, evaporation, diversion to other Basin, or injection into subsurface formation.

Consumptive Use Information

- Description of each use and date initiated.
- Description of how consumptive uses are quantified
 - inflow outflow
 - each individual use
- Highest 30-day average
 - last five years data
 - other historic data
- Supporting data.



Supporting Data

- Metered data for the most recent five years
 - Withdrawal data for each source
 - Consumptive use data <u>for the entire facility</u> (inflow outflow, or individual processes/uses)
- Any other reliable information upon which a determination can be made (equipment specifications, estimations, etc.).
- Supporting information
 - Historical data
 - Data reported to other state agencies
 - Previous grandfathering determinations by the Commission

Commission Review and Determination

- Facility will receive a confirmation e-mail once registration is submitted. Commission staff will complete administrative and technical reviews, and will contact the facility with any questions.
- For each registration submitted under Section 806.44, the Executive Director will determine the grandfathered quantity for each withdrawal and total consumptive use based on:
 - Reliability and accuracy of data provided
 - Genuine and reasonable usage
 - Other relevant factors
- The determination is appealable to the Commission under Section 808.2.
- The Commission may require a metering and monitoring plan.

Registration Fees

- The Commission seeks to incentivize early registration during the two-year registration window.
 - First six months, the registration fee is \$0.
 - Second six months, the registration fee is \$500.
 - During 2019, the registration fee is \$1,000.

Registration Schedule

- After several public hearings (MD, PA, NY) and an extended 120-day public comment period, regulation was published in the *Federal Register* on June 2017.
- Registration begins on Jan. 1, 2018.
- Any new reporting will not be required prior to January 2019.

Summary

• Better understand water uses in the Basin to improve water management for all water users.

• Add certainty/clarity and protections surrounding exempt/grandfathered operations.

• Commission staff are available to assist.

