

RESOLUTION NO. 2017-02

A RESOLUTION of the Susquehanna River Basin Commission (the "Commission") setting a five-year docket term for withdrawals related to unconventional natural gas and other hydrocarbon development projects.

WHEREAS, Section 806.31 of the regulations provides that "[a]pprovals issued under this part shall have a term equal to the term of any accompanying member jurisdiction approval regulating the same subject matter, but not longer than 15 years, unless an alternate period is provided for in the Commission approval" (18 C.F.R. § 806.31(a)); and

WHEREAS, the Commission has exercised its discretion under the regulations to provide a limited term of four years for water withdrawals associated with unconventional natural gas development because a shorter term allows the Commission to better consider evolving water acquisition strategies and other changes in industry practices and allows the Commission to more frequently adjust necessary management practices, procedures, reporting requirements, and demand projections; and

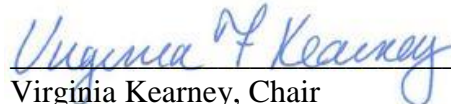
WHEREAS, the Commission, using an identical rationale, set the terms for consumptive use approvals for unconventional natural gas and other hydrocarbon development projects at five years under 18 C.F.R. § 806.22(f)(10); and

WHEREAS, the Commission desires to use the discretion provided under 18 C.F.R. § 806.31(a) to align the terms for consumptive uses and water withdrawals for unconventional natural gas and other hydrocarbon development projects.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. In general, the Commission will approve dockets for water withdrawals for natural gas and other hydrocarbon development projects with a five-year term.
2. This resolution is intended as a general statement of policy on how the Commission intends to exercise its discretion under 18 C.F.R. § 806.31(a). The Commission may deviate from this policy as circumstances may warrant.
3. This resolution shall be effective immediately.

Dated: March 9, 2017



Virginia Kearney, Chair
Maryland