



SUSQUEHANNA RIVER BASIN COMMISSION

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Docket No. 20230626

Approval Date: June 15, 2023

TOWN OF BIG FLATS

**Groundwater Withdrawals (30-Day Averages)
of 0.577 mgd from Well 2-1 and 0.365 mgd from Well 2-2, and
Total System Withdrawal Limit (30-Day Average) of 1.100 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 and modification of the project described herein in accordance with the conditions set forth below.

The project sponsor operates a public water supply system that includes three sources for combined Water Districts 1, 2, and 3 (Wells 1-1, 2-1, and 2-2), all of which are incorporated into the total system withdrawal limit. The project sponsor also maintains interconnections to supply water to the Village of Horseheads and to supply and receive water with the Elmira Water Board. The interconnections are not included in the total system withdrawal limit for Water Districts 1, 2, and 3. The project sponsor also operates Water District 4, which is an independent system operating below the Commission's regulatory thresholds and served solely by Well 4-1. Based on information provided by the project sponsor, no other sources are operated by the project.

The Commission previously approved the combined withdrawal of up to 0.590 million gallons per day (mgd) from Wells 2-1, and 2-2 under Commission Docket No. 19910304-1. On August 27, 2020, the project sponsor submitted initial groundwater withdrawal renewal applications and on April 12, 2023, the project sponsor submitted complete groundwater withdrawal renewal applications requesting an increase from the previously approved quantities. This approval authorizes continued withdrawals at the requested rates and maintains the total system withdrawal limit of 1.100 mgd established under Commission Docket No. 20170601.

Should demand exceed the total system withdrawal 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 withdrawal limit, as the total system withdrawal limit established herein is based on the 15-year projected demand.

Commission staff determined that the withdrawals from Wells 2-1 and 2-2 at the requested 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 2-1	Well 2-2
30-Day Average Withdrawal (mgd):	0.577	0.365
Maximum Instantaneous Withdrawal Rate (gpm) (Not to Exceed):	500	300
Peak Day Withdrawal (mgd):	0.720	0.432
Total System Withdrawal Limit – Wells 1-1, 2-1, and 2-2 (30-Day Average) (mgd):	1.100	

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

Section 6. Existing Approved Withdrawals

Quantities applicable to the existing approved withdrawals are listed in the table below.

Existing Approved Groundwater Withdrawals			
Source	30-Day Average Withdrawal (mgd)	Commission Docket No.	Docket Expiration Date
Well 1-1	0.778	20170601	June 30, 2032

Section 7. Grandfathering Determination – Withdrawals

All withdrawals used by the project have Commission approval.

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. 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.

4. The project sponsor shall adhere to the groundwater elevation monitoring plan reviewed and approved by Commission staff for the sources listed in Sections 3 and 6. 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 Sections 3 and 6, 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. 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.

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. 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.

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. 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.

19. 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

20. The date of the last meter certification for the sources listed in Section 3 was March 21, 2023; therefore, the next meter certification is due no later than March 21, 2028. 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 keep daily records, and shall report the same to the Commission upon request, of all persons supplied water from the project, 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, including daily quantities supplied.

Section 10. Term

22. This approval shall be effective July 1, 2023, and shall remain effective until June 30, 2038. As specified in 18 CFR § 806.31(e), if the project sponsor submits an application on or before December 31, 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.

23. Commission Docket Nos. 19910304 and 19910304-1 shall remain effective through June 30, 2023, whereupon they 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 June 15, 2023.

Dated: June 16, 2023



Jason E. Oyler, Esq.