



# SUSQUEHANNA RIVER BASIN COMMISSION

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**Docket No. 20240614**

**Approval Date: June 13, 2024**

## **PENNSYLVANIA – AMERICAN WATER COMPANY FACILITY: PHILIPSBURG/MOSHANNON DISTRICT**

**Groundwater Withdrawals (30-Day Averages) of 0.605 mgd from Cold Stream Well 1,  
0.432 mgd from Cold Stream Well 2, and 0.374 mgd from Cold Stream Well 3, and  
Total System Withdrawal Limit (30-Day Average) of 3.210 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 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 seven groundwater sources (Cold Stream Wells 1, 2 and 3, Trout Run Wells 1 and 2, and Sandy Ridge Wells 1 and 2) and two surface water sources (Cold Stream/Philipsburg Reservoir and Blue Spring), all of which are incorporated into the total system withdrawal limit. Based on information provided by the project sponsor, no other sources are operated by the project and the project does not maintain interconnections with other public water supply systems.

The Commission previously approved the withdrawal of 0.600 million gallons per day (mgd) from Cold Stream Well 1 and a combined withdrawal of 0.860 mgd from Cold Stream Wells 2 and 3 under Commission Docket No. 19890302. The project sponsor submitted groundwater withdrawal renewal applications requesting approval to withdraw up to 0.605 mgd from Cold Stream Well 1, 0.432 mgd from Cold Stream Well 2, and 0.374 mgd from Cold Stream Well 3. This approval authorizes continued withdrawals at the requested rates and establishes a total system withdrawal limit of 3.210 mgd consistent with the 15-year projected demand through 2039.

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 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>	Pennsylvania – American Water Company
<b>Facility:</b>	Philipsburg/Moshannon District
<b>Approval Type:</b>	Groundwater Withdrawal
<b>Previous Docket No.:</b>	19890302
<b>Authorized Water Use Purpose:</b>	Public Water Supply
<b>Municipality:</b>	Rush Township
<b>County:</b>	Centre 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>	Cold Stream Wells 1, 2, and 3
<b>Subbasin:</b>	West Branch Susquehanna
<b>Watershed Boundary Dataset (WBD):</b>	0205020105 (Moshannon 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

Commission staff determined that sufficient data was available to complete the necessary hydrogeologic evaluation and approved Alternative Hydrogeologic Evaluations (AHEs) for Cold Stream Wells 1, 2, and 3 on April 19, 2024. In support of the AHEs, the project sponsor provided the required groundwater availability analysis, historical withdrawal and water level data, the results of historical aquifer testing and recent operational testing, and analysis and comparison of current operational data to historical testing results. Commission staff determined that the

withdrawals from Cold Stream Wells 1, 2, and 3 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.

Operational testing and withdrawal and water level data have also demonstrated that the requested and recommended quantity may not be available at times without causing lowering of the water levels below critical water-bearing zones in each well without protective conditions. Evaluation of the data identified the following critical water-bearing zones:

1. Cold Stream Well 1: 1,485 feet above mean sea level (AMSL) or 88 feet below ground surface (bgs); and
2. Cold Stream Well 3: 1,441 feet AMSL or 190 feet bgs.

Staff recommends drawdown be limited to 1 foot above the respective water levels identified herein for Cold Stream Wells 1 and 3 to maintain water levels above the critical water-bearing zones, in accordance with Special Condition 22.

Staff identified that concurrent operation of Cold Stream Wells 2 and 3 causes potentially significant adverse drawdown interference and may cause the water level in Cold Stream Well 3 to be below the critical water-bearing zone identified above. Additionally, the PADEP operations permit includes a condition preventing concurrent pumping of Cold Stream Wells 2 and 3. Therefore, staff recommends prohibiting concurrent pumping of Cold Stream Wells 2 and 3, in accordance with Special Condition 23.

## 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			
	Cold Stream Well 1	Cold Stream Well 2	Cold Stream Well 3
30-Day Average Withdrawal (mgd):	0.605	0.432	0.374
Maximum Instantaneous Withdrawal Rate (gpm) (Not to Exceed):	420	300	300
Peak Day Withdrawal (mgd):	0.605	0.432	0.432
Total System Withdrawal Limit – Cold Stream Wells 1, 2 and 3, Trout Run Wells 1 and 2, Sandy Ridge Wells 1 and 2, Cold Stream/Philipsburg Reservoir, and Blue Spring (30-Day Average) (mgd):	3.210		
gpm – gallons per minute			

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
Trout Run Well 1	0.530	20010202	February 8, 2026
Trout Run Well 2	0.980	20010202	February 8, 2026
Combined Limit Trout Run Wells 1 and 2	1.510	20010202	February 8, 2026

## Section 7. Grandfathering Determination – Withdrawals

On October 2, 2019, the project sponsor submitted a grandfathered water use registration under 18 CFR § 806.40-45 for Sandy Ridge Wells 1 and 2, Cold Stream/Philipsburg Reservoir, and Blue Spring. The Executive Director issued Certificate of Registration No. GF-202204216 on April 28, 2022, pursuant to 18 CFR § 806.44.

## 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 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.

5. 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.

6. 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.

7. The project sponsor shall comply with the water conservation requirements specified in 18 CFR § 806.25.

8. This approval is conditioned on the project sponsor maintaining legal access to the withdrawal locations for the duration of the approval.

9. The project sponsor shall register with the appropriate agency all water sources described herein, and adhere to reporting requirements as may be required by regulations of the member jurisdiction.

10. 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.

11. 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.

12. 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.

13. 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.

14. This project is approved for inclusion in the Commission's Comprehensive Plan for the Water Resources of the Susquehanna River Basin.

15. The project sponsor is required to apply for and obtain approval prior to any increase in withdrawals that would exceed the amounts listed herein.

16. 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.

17. 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

18. 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 distribution system losses and achieve compliance with the water conservation requirements by June 30, 2028, as prescribed in Decision Item "c" of Commission Docket No. 20010202, and the related extension letter dated January 9, 2024.

19. The date of the last meter certification was February 21, 2023; therefore, the next meter certifications for Cold Stream Wells 1, 2, and 3 are due no later than February 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.

20. 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, and the groundwater sources that are in use and listed in Section 7. The project sponsor shall maintain and monitor the accuracy of the measuring devices in accordance with the manufacturer's specifications.

21. The project sponsor shall keep daily records of the project's withdrawals and groundwater elevations for the sources that are in use and listed in Sections 3, 6, and 7, 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.

22. To maintain water levels above critical water-bearing zones in Cold Stream Wells 1 and 3, drawdown shall be limited to the following:

- a. Cold Stream Well 1: 1,486 feet AMSL or 87 feet bgs; and
- b. Cold Stream Well 3: 1,442 feet AMSL or 189 feet bgs.

Within ninety (90) days from the date of this approval, the project sponsor shall provide documentation to the Commission that automatic shutoff switches or supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA) programming that ceases withdrawals from Cold Stream Wells 1 and 3 at the prescribed elevations have been installed or completed.

23. To prevent significant adverse interference and to be consistent with the Safe Drinking Water Act permit from PADEP, Cold Stream Wells 2 and 3 shall not be operated concurrently.

24. The project sponsor 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

25. This approval shall be effective July 1, 2024, and shall remain effective until June 30, 2039. As specified in 18 CFR § 806.31(e), if the project sponsor submits an application on or before December 31, 2038, 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.

26. Commission Docket No. 19890302 shall remain effective through June 30, 2024, 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 June 13, 2024.

Dated: June 14, 2024

  
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Jason E. Oyler, Esq.