



SUSQUEHANNA RIVER BASIN COMMISSION

4423 North Front Street • Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17110-1788

(717) 238-0423 Phone • (717) 238-2436 Fax

www.srbc.gov

Docket No. 20251214

Approval Date: December 4, 2025

STATE COLLEGE BOROUGH WATER AUTHORITY

**Groundwater Withdrawals (30-Day Averages) of
1.440 mgd from Well 71, 1.220 mgd from Well 73,
1.584 mgd from Well 78, and 0.576 mgd from Well 79;
Combined Withdrawal Limit (30-Day Average) of 3.185 mgd; and
Total System Withdrawal Limit (30-Day Average) of 8.000 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 serves State College Borough and portions of Ferguson, Patton, Benner, College, Halfmoon, and Harris Townships, Centre County, Pennsylvania. The public water supply system includes 22 groundwater sources (Wells 7, 8, 11, 14, 17, 18, 19, 22, 24, 25, 41, 43, 53, 57, 62, 63, 64, 65, 71, 73, 78, and 79) and 1 surface water source (Shingletown Gap Reservoir), all of which are incorporated into the total system withdrawal limit. The project sponsor also maintains an interconnection with The Pennsylvania State University to provide or receive water, which is not included in the total system withdrawal limit. Based on information provided by the project sponsor, no other sources are operated by the project.

The Commission previously approved combined withdrawals from Wells 71, 73, 78, and 79 under Commission Docket No. 19940903, which did not include individual well withdrawal limits. The project sponsor submitted groundwater withdrawal renewal applications (30-day averages) requesting approval to withdraw up to 1.440 million gallons per day (mgd) from Well 71, 1.220 mgd from Well 73, 1.584 mgd from Well 78, and 0.576 mgd from Well 79. This approval authorizes continued withdrawals at the requested rates and maintains the total system withdrawal limit of 8.000 mgd (30-day average) established under Commission Docket No. 20190308.

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), the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR), and the Pennsylvania Fish & 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	
Project Sponsor:	State College Borough Water Authority
Approval Type:	Groundwater Withdrawal
Previous Docket No.:	19940903
Authorized Water Use Purpose:	Public Water Supply
Municipality:	Ferguson Township
County:	Centre County
State:	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	
Approved Sources:	Wells 71, 73, 78, and 79
Subbasin:	Juniata
Watershed Boundary Dataset (WBD):	0205030204 (Spruce Creek)
Withdrawal Locations (degrees)*:	Lat: -- Long: --
Special Flow Protection Required:	No
* Specific location information concerning discrete water-related project features has been withheld for security reasons.	

Section 4. Hydrogeologic Evaluation

The hydrogeologic evaluation required by 18 CFR § 806.12 for groundwater withdrawals was completed with aquifer tests in accordance with a Commission-approved plan. A combined 52-hour, constant-rate aquifer test of Wells 71 and 78 was conducted on March 9 through 11, 1992, pumping Well 71 at an average rate of 1,000 gallons per minute (gpm) and Well 78 at an average rate of 1,100 gpm. A combined 49-hour, constant-rate aquifer test of Wells 73 and 79 was conducted on March 29 through 31, 1992, pumping Well 73 at an average rate of 850 gpm and Well 79 at an average rate of 400 gpm.

The water treatment plant for Wells 71, 73, 78, and 79 is designed with redundancy and permitted by PADEP to treat up to 3.168 mgd. Because Wells 71, 73, 78, and 79 were tested at rates higher than current PADEP-permitted treatment allows, staff recommends a combined 30-day average withdrawal rate from Wells 71, 73, 78, and 79 of 3.185 mgd, as requested. However, the project sponsor must comply with all limitations provided by other agencies and staff recommends that the project sponsor, in accordance with Special Condition 22, inform the Commission when increases to the PADEP-permitted rates are approved.

Operations in drier hydrologic conditions have demonstrated that the requested and recommended quantity from Wells 73 and 79 may not be available at times, while avoiding exposure of important water-bearing zones. Because the project sponsor uses Wells 73 and 79 as supplemental sources for the system, staff recommends approval of the higher quantity so the project sponsor may utilize its sources during wet or average conditions. Additionally, staff recommends that the project sponsor maintain or revise the previously established and implemented water level shut control switches in an operations plan to be protective of important water-bearing zones, in accordance with Special Condition 23.

Commission staff determined that the withdrawals from Wells 71, 73, 78, and 79 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 71	Well 73	Well 78	Well 79
30-Day Average Withdrawal (mgd):	1.440	1.220	1.584	0.576
Maximum Instantaneous Withdrawal Rate (gpm) (Not to Exceed):	1,000	850	1,100	400
Peak Day Withdrawal (mgd):	1.440	1.224	1.584	0.576
Combined Withdrawal Limit – Wells 71, 73, 78, and 79 (30-Day Average) (mgd)	3.185			
Total System Withdrawal Limit – Wells 7, 8, 11, 14, 17, 18, 19, 22, 24, 25, 41, 43, 53, 57, 62, 63, 64, 65, 71, 73, 78, and 79, and Shingletown Gap Reservoir (30-Day Average) (mgd):	8.000			

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 tables below.

Existing Approved Groundwater Withdrawals				
Source	30-Day Average Withdrawal (mgd)		Commission Docket No.	Docket Expiration Date
Wells 22 and 24	2.500		19920103	January 23, 2022*
Wells 41, 43, and 53	0.605	3.000 (Subsystem Limit)	20130912	September 18, 2028
	1.480			
	1.520			
Well 57	0.490		20190308	March 31, 2034
Wells 62, 63, 64, and 65	2.160	2.160 (Subsystem Limit)	20230621	June 30, 2038
	0.720			
	0.850			
	0.720			
Wells 17, 18, and 19	1.584		20240918	September 30, 2039
	0.576			
	1.512			

* Renewal applications have been submitted.

Existing Approved Surface Water Withdrawals			
Source	Peak Day Withdrawal (mgd)	Commission Docket No.	Docket Expiration Date
Shingletown Gap Reservoir	0.500	20170311	January 19, 2042

Section 7. Grandfathering Determination – Withdrawals

The Executive Director issued Certificate of Registration for Grandfathered Water Use No. GF-201903029 on March 27, 2019, pursuant to 18 CFR § 806.44 for Wells 7, 8, 11, 14, and 25.

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. Within ninety (90) days from the date of this approval, the project sponsor shall submit a comprehensive metering plan to the Commission for review and approval by Commission staff that accounts for all withdrawals listed in Sections 3, 5, 6, and 7 of this approval.

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. Within ninety (90) days from the date of this approval, the project sponsor shall submit a plan to Commission staff for review and approval for the implementation of a groundwater elevation monitoring program in accordance with 18 CFR § 806.30(a)(4). The plan shall include proposed methods for the daily measurement and recording of groundwater elevations for the sources listed in Sections 3, 5, 6, and 7. Following approval, the project sponsor shall execute the plan and complete installation of water level monitoring equipment in accordance with the approved schedule. The project sponsor shall notify the Commission, in writing, and submit photographs of the water level monitoring equipment when it has been installed and certify the accuracy of the measuring devices. Withdrawals shall not commence until Commission staff has approved the implementation of the approved groundwater elevation monitoring plan and notified the project sponsor of such approval. The project sponsor shall notify the Commission when the monitoring plan has been fully implemented.

5. The project sponsor shall keep daily records of the project's withdrawals and groundwater elevations, 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 water sources described herein, and adhere to reporting requirements as may be required by regulations of the member jurisdiction.

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. 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.

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 affects 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 project sponsor shall only supply water for use in hydrocarbon development to persons who have properly registered or received approval pursuant to 18 CFR § 806.22(f), as applicable.

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 for use in hydrocarbon development, 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 for uses other than hydrocarbon development, including daily quantities supplied.

22. The project sponsor shall notify the Commission within thirty (30) days of an increase to the PADEP-permitted treatment rate for Wells 71, 73, 78, and 79.

23. To avoid the potential for dewatering important water-bearing zones in its sources, the project sponsor shall prepare and submit an operations plan to the Commission within ninety (90) days, identifying minimum pumping elevation action levels for Wells 73 and 79. If not already implemented, the minimum pumping elevation action levels shall be implemented within one hundred twenty (120) days of the approval. The operations plan and minimum pumping elevation action levels can be modified with staff review and approval, if needed.

Section 10. Term

24. This approval shall be effective January 1, 2026, and shall remain effective until December 31, 2040. As specified in 18 CFR § 806.31(e), if the project sponsor submits an application on or before June 30, 2040, 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.

25. Commission Docket No. 19940903 shall remain effective through December 31, 2025, 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 December 4, 2025.

Dated: December 5, 2025



Jason E. Oyler, Esq.