



# SUSQUEHANNA RIVER BASIN COMMISSION

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## Groundwater Withdrawal Application Summary

**Source Name:** Lykens Well

**SRBC Pending No.:** 2023-108

This summary is only a portion of the application materials and is meant to provide general information about the proposed project.

### 1.1 Project Sponsor

Company Name: Rausch Creek Generation, LLC  
Mailing Address Line 1: 490 West Main Street  
Mailing Address Line 2:  
City: Tremont  
State: PA  
ZIP Code: 17981

#### Contact Person:

First Name: John  
Last Name: Oelbracht  
Title: Plant Manager  
Telephone: (570) 695-3175  
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**E-mail:** [Plantmgr@rcgeneration.com](mailto:Plantmgr@rcgeneration.com)

### 1.3 Existing and Projected Facility Water Use

The usage should be entered in million gallons per day (mgd) and rounded off to the nearest one thousand gallons (three decimal places).

Projected Design Year:  
2002

| Total Project Water Usage             | Existing Usage (mgd) | Projected Usage For Design Year (mgd): |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------|--|
| Maximum 30-day Average Water Demand : | 2.43                 | 1.12                                   |
| Maximum Daily Water Demand :          | 1.09                 | 0.93                                   |
| System Capacity :                     | 2.24                 | 2.24                                   |

### 1.4 Requested Withdrawal Amount:

Estimated Daily Hours of Operation per Day (Ex. = 5): 24  
Maximum Instantaneous Withdrawal Rate (gpm): 777.8  
Maximum 24-Hour Day (mgd): 1.12  
Maximum 30-Day Average (mgd): 1.12

### 2.2 Facility Location

Please enter the address of the parcel where the Project Facility is located.

Street Address: 490 West Main St  
State: PA  
County: Schuylkill  
Municipality: Frailey and Tremont Townships  
Zip Code: 17981  
Subbasin: [Select a Subbasin]

## **2.1 Project Facility Description**

### **a. Site and Facility Name**

Rausch Creek Generation LLC formerly named WPS Westwood Power LLC) is a 30 MW culm/coal refuse fired small power generator utilizing circulating fluidized bed combustion technology that controls SO<sub>2</sub> emissions by injecting limestone into the combustor along with the waste fuel. The Plant utilizes a baghouse to control PM emissions. The Plants control NO<sub>x</sub> emissions by controlling combustion temperature and the use of water injection. The facility is a low emitter of mercury.

### **b. Anticipated long-term owner/operator**

Rausch Creek Generation is the current owner/operator of the RC Generation facility (aka Westwood Power Plant) and plans to operate into the future. The Plant is an integral part of the long term plans to reclaim and develop properties owned by the Project as well as by Rausch Creek Land.

### **c. Type of Facility**

The facility is design to burn anthracite coal refuse/culm (a low BTU [3600 Btus/lb], High Ash, Low Sulfur Fuel) that is located on the property controlled/owned by Rausch Creek Generation and Rausch Creek Land. The culm and coal refuse had been dumped on the land uncontrolled and abandoned causing water and land pollution.

The fluidized bed combustion is designed to burn this waste fuel. The steam produced by the CFB Combustor is to generate 30+ MW of electricity.

The water utilized by the Plant is obtained from the Lykens Wells developed in the New Lincoln Colliery Abandoned Mine Pool and the Westwood Well developed In the Westwood Colliery Abandoned Pool. The water from the Westwood Well is sent either to the Plants Water Treatment Facility or to the Water Storage Impoundment for use in fugitive dust control and ash conditioning. The Water from the Lykens Well is the primary source of raw water that is treated and used in power generation.

The water is treated and sent to processed water storage tank where it is used for cooling water by the cooling towers. Some of the water undergoes additional treatment is used to produce steam used by the steam generator to produce electricity. (This is the primary use of water by the facility and consumed the most water.

### **d. Purpose of the Withdrawal**

The purpose of the withdrawal was to use it to produce steam to generate electricity. In addition, water from the processed water lagoon was used for dust control and condition the ash and used in the reclamation.

By using the mine water from the New Lincoln Mine Pool and the Westwood mine pools, the project is reducing the impact of water from discharges of these abandoned impacted mine waters to Lower Rausch Creek impacting water quality. There is a reduction in the water being directly discharge from these mines into Lower Rausch Creek, but the treated water from the Processed Water Impoundment is of better quality has an NPDES Permit tied to the discharge point.

#### **e. Description of Site Activities**

The Power Plant utilizes CFB Combustion Technology in conjunction with limestone injection into the combustor to control SO<sub>2</sub> Emissions. In addition, the Plant utilizes baghouse to control particulate emissions and water to control NO<sub>x</sub> emissions.

At this time, the primary fuel site is located on the Plant Property and has been permitted by PA DEP Anthracite Mining Office. The mined fuel is delivered to fuel storage area fuel and senfuel silos by conveyors.

The Plant treats mine water for use tor use in the facility to produce steam and generator electricity. In addition, a portion of the water is used to cool the Plant using its Cooling Towers. The water from the cooling tower is treated to meet effluent limitations and is discharge to the Process Water Impoundment which is discharge to Lower Rausch Creek.

There are two sources of beneficial use ash produced at the plant (bottom ash and fly ash (from the baghouse. The ash is collected and delivered to the mine site wereit is conditioned and incorporated into the site reclamation plan.

#### **f. Requested Quantity of Water to be Withdrawn**

The Plant has been authorized to withdrawal a maximum of 1,120,000 gallons withdrawal on a daily basis. The Plant is authorized to consume up to 930,000 gpd. Generally, the consumption has been at or less than 845,000 gpd.

The Plant has been operating within these parameters since 1999.

#### **g. Provide date of operations began at site**

The Plant commenced operations in 1988 and ceased operations for economic reasons in 1997. The Plant was acquired out of bankruptcy in 1999. In 2002, the Facility was sold to WPS Westwood Power LLC and has been in operation since that time. (the Plant's operations are tied to the market price of power in the PJM. It should be noted that WPS Westwood Power LLC had underwent several changes of ownership over from 2002 to the present.