



SUSQUEHANNA RIVER BASIN COMMISSION

4423 North Front Street • Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17110-1788

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

Web <http://www.srbc.net>

Groundwater Withdrawal Application Summary

Source Name: Chobani Well 4

SRBC Pending No.: 2025-177

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: Chobani, LLC
Mailing Address Line 1: 669 County Road 25
Mailing Address Line 2:
City: New Berlin
State: NY
ZIP Code: 13411

Contact Person:

First Name: Michael
Last Name: Jonker
Title: Wastewater Manager
Telephone: (607) 847-7442
Fax:
Mobile:
E-mail: michael.jonker@chobani.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:
2040

Total Project Water Usage	Existing Usage (mgd)	Projected Usage For Design Year (mgd):
Maximum 30-day Average Water Demand :	0.875	1.3
Maximum Daily Water Demand :	1.3	1.3
System Capacity :	1.785	2.54

1.4 Requested Withdrawal Amount:

Estimated Daily Hours of Operation per Day (Ex. = 5): 24
Maximum Instantaneous Withdrawal Rate (gpm): 525
Maximum 24-Hour Day (mgd): 0.756
Maximum 30-Day Average (mgd): 0.756

2.2 Facility Location

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

Street Address: 669 County Road 25

State: NY

County: Chenango

Municipality: New Berlin Town

Zip Code: 13411

Subbasin: Upper Susquehanna

Section 2.1 Project Facility Description

- A. **Site/Facility Name:** Chobani South Edmeston Manufacturing Facility; the plant is located at 669 County Road 25, in New Berlin, New York.
- B. **Site Owner/Operator:** Chobani LLC (Chobani)
- C. **Type of Facility:** Chobani operates a dairy processing facility located in New Berlin, New York. The Chobani plant derives its source of water from three production wells (Wells 1, 2, and 3). The withdrawal of groundwater at the plant is regulated by the Susquehanna River Basin Commission (SRBC or Commission), and Chobani has an approved Docket (20130604) for the withdrawal of approximately 0.650 million gallons per day (MGD) individually from each production well, and a total system withdrawal limit (30-day average) of 1.3 MGD.

Based on the daily pumping records submitted to SRBC over the past decade (2014-2024), Chobani's water demand has increased from approximately 0.525 MGD in 2014 to the current average of approximately 0.875 MGD of water withdrawal in 2024. The daily combined pumping rates from operating production wells averaging approximately 550 to 600 gallons per minute (gpm), and Chobani typically operates two of the three production wells to meet the plant's water demand. As a result of the plant production schedule, daily water use fluctuates but generally ranges from a daily peak withdrawal of approximately 1.0 MGD to a low of approximately 0.300 MGD, during plant shutdown periods. Based on a review of the plant water usage over time, higher water use periods are generally limited and are not significantly different than normal plant withdrawals of 0.875 MGD throughout the year.

- D. **Purpose of the Withdrawal:** The groundwater withdrawn at the Site is used for potable supply and for plant cleaning and sanitizing of the production equipment used in the manufacturing process. A smaller portion of the water withdrawn by the Site is also used as non-contact cooling water for chiller units and as a source for a standby fire protection water tank. Process wastewater is treated in an on-Site treatment plant, and the water is discharged to the Unadilla River under a New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) State Pollution Discharge Elimination System (SPDES) permit.
- E. **Description of Site Activities:** Well 4 at the Chobani facility is a new production well located on the west side of the dairy processing plant at 669 County Road, New Berlin, New York (the Site). The groundwater withdrawal application for Well 4 requests a maximum instantaneous withdrawal rate of 525 gallons per minute. The groundwater withdrawal application, however, does not request an increase in the total system limit for the facility's sources.

In 2013, the SRBC approved the groundwater withdrawal of up to 1.3 MGD from the three existing groundwater production wells (Well 1, Well 2 and Well 3) under SRBC Docket 20130604. Water demand at the plant was initially variable and averaged approximately 0.525 MGD. However, as manufacturing operations at the facility have expanded and the plant operating schedule stabilized, groundwater withdrawal gradually increased to approximately 0.875 MGD, with a maximum daily withdrawal during peak demand of approximately 1.000 MGD.

The well water is used for potable supply and for manufacturing cleaning processes. A small portion of the water is also used in the facility chiller equipment to provide for cooling. Wastewater is

treated at the facility, and a significant portion of the treated water is discharged back to the Unadilla River under a NYSDEC SPDES permit.

Well 4 has three main purposes:

1. To provide system redundancy to the existing Chobani production wells. Well 1 was installed in 1938 and is almost 100 years old. Well 2 was installed in 1963, and over 60-years old. Both older production wells have experienced reductions in yield in the past and have had to be taken offline and redeveloped to restore well capacity. In addition, the older turbine drive pumps that were originally installed in Wells 1 and 2 have been replaced with new submersible pumps providing for more efficient operation. Well 3 is a relatively newer well, installed in 2010, but the discharge from this well has experienced an increase in chloride concentrations recently, thereby reducing the effectiveness of the well, and making the use of this well less reliable. Because the current water demand requires that at least two of the production wells be operated in series to meet the daily water demand, there is essentially no backup source of water for the plant if one or more of the existing production wells is offline for repairs or redevelopment.
 2. To provide increased water capacity of better water quality compared to Well 3, which has experienced an increase in chloride concentrations, which has limited its use as a primary source of plant water.
 3. To provide an overall increase in total system capacity in the event of future plant expansion. As noted above and in the reasonable foreseeable demand sections, Chobani currently is docketed for a total system withdrawal of 1.3 MGD, and while the current plant demand has increased due to manufacturing expansions, the current withdrawal remains below the maximum system limits. However, additional plant expansion is likely to occur in the future, and the docketing of Well 4 will provide for the ability to increase total system demand in the future if water use at the plant increases.
- F. **The requested quantity of water to be withdrawn:** Chobani LLC is requesting a maximum instantaneous withdrawal rate of 525 gpm for Well 4. The groundwater withdrawal application, however, is not requesting an increase in the total system limit for the facility's sources of 1.3 MGD under their existing SRBC docket (20130604).
- G. **Date that Operations began at the facility:** The Chobani South Edmeston dairy plant was initially constructed in the 1930s and operated by the Pheonix Cheese Company. The dairy facility was later acquired by Kraft Foods, Inc. and operated as a dairy plant. Agro Farma (a predecessor of Chobani LLC) acquired the South Edmeston plant from Kraft and began dairy operations to produce yogurt products at the site in 2008. Plant expansions have continued and currently, Chobani is constructing a new whey processing and reduction plant that will reduce the amount of water currently consumed in the manufacturing process. Wells 1 and 2 are the original water supply wells installed at the facility in 1938 and 1963 to provide water for plant operations. Well 3 was drilled, constructed, and tested in 2010-2012, and the three plant wells were permitted for groundwater withdrawal by SRBC in 2013.

Well 4 is a backup production well that was installed to provide relief to the older production wells, and to provide increased capacity of better-quality water compared to Well 3. Exploration for the location of Well 4 was conducted between 2021 and 2023, and the new production well was

designed and constructed following a pre-drill review with SRBC technical staff in November and December 2023. Well development and step-testing of the new production well was completed in January 2024.

A 72-hour, constant rate aquifer test was conducted on Well 4, pumping at a rate of 525 gpm, in August 2025 pursuant to the SRBC's aquifer test plan approved in a letter dated July 18, 2025. A hydrogeologic report has been prepared which summarizes the results of this testing. The requested withdrawal rate is based on the aquifer test results, groundwater availability of the Well 4 drainage basin, lack of potential impacts to other users and resources, and included the operation of pumping the Chobani Wells (Wells 1, 2 and 3) combined with Well 4 simultaneously at their maximum rates.

<https://haleyaldrich.sharepoint.com/sites/ChobaniLLC/Shared Documents/0200429.Chobani Production Well Investigation/Deliverables/Well 4 Application/Withdrawal Application Attachments/2025-1222-Section 2.1 Facility Description-F.docx>