



OIL & GAS MANAGEMENT
SOUTHWEST REGIONAL OFFICE

June 14, 2023

VIA EMAIL

Mr. Richard Watson
Project Manager
PennEnergy Resources, LLC
3000 Westinghouse Drive, Suite 300
Cranberry Township, PA 16066

RE: PennEnergy Resources, LLC
Water Management Amendment Application: Big Sewickley Creek
B50 Temporary Aboveground Waterline Joint Permit Application
E0407222-001; APS # 1058722

Good Afternoon Mr. Watson,

The Department has reviewed the June 1, 2023 response to the May 18, 2023 outstanding deficiency notice associated with PennEnergy Resources' Big Sewickley Creek Water Management Plan application and the fully updated Water Management Plan application ("WMP Application").

Within the response, PennEnergy states that it will no longer be utilizing the installed staff gages to monitor passby flow rates, but instead it will be conducting direct flow measurements, using a flow meter and monumented cross-section, prior to and during each withdrawal. The Department has identified deficiencies in the WMP Application.

The following are the deficiencies noted within the WMP Application.

- 1) Attachment A contains references to attachment F and J Section C for passby flow calculations. The correct references are Attachments E and I Section C. The application should be updated to be consistent. §105.13 (e)
- 2) Section J. of Attachment I: Withdrawal Impact Analysis states that "The staff gage at the withdrawal site will be referenced on an interim basis every time a withdrawal is desired to confirm the upstream flow rate and the availability of water for withdrawal." This is not consistent with the abandonment of the staff gages as proposed in the Response to Comment cover letter. Penn Energy was given the opportunity to verify the accuracy of these gages, however, it did not do so. Rather, it pursued a different plan, to measure flows at the time of proposed withdraw. Therefore, the accuracy of the gages was not

verified. In order to use gage data to monitor instream flows and passby rates, the gage data should be accurate. §105.13 (e); §78a.69 (b) (1); §78a.69 (e) (2)

- 3) The frequency of confirmatory measurements needs to be justified. Provide a rationale for the stated weekly, daily, and eight-hour measurement intervals to ensure instream flows are being protected. The “flashy” nature of flows within Big Sewickley Creek should also be addressed in this justification.
- 4) Within the Passby and Pool Depth narrative it states that “Flow measurement will be completed at the point of withdrawal or adjacent to point of withdrawal”. It is later stated under statement No. 1 that “the location of the measurement will be downstream of withdrawal point within straight reach and where flow is relatively uniform.”

The exact location of the monumented cross-section should be documented and color photographs of the location should be provided. The cross-section location should be placed in an area of the stream that exhibits the same stream morphology and velocity that are present at the withdrawal site. By a letter dated June 12, 2023, the PA Fish and Boat Commission recommended that the monumented cross-section be placed upstream of the withdrawal location. A copy of the June 12, 2023 letter is enclosed for your reference. §105.13 (e); §78a.69 (b) (1); §78a.69 (e) (2)

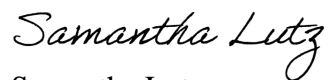
The stream morphology at the point of withdraw, the velocity, and the recommendation of the PA Fish and Boat Commission recommendations should be considered in locating the appropriate location of the monumented cross section.

- 5) The maximum instantaneous withdrawal rate is stated as 2.3 cfs. Please ensure that the pumps are appropriately sized or controlled to ensure that this rate is not exceeded. Manufacturer specifications and a justification will need to be provided. §78a.69 (c) (1)

Please note that this information must be submitted and address all outstanding deficiencies within ten (10) business days from the date of this letter, on or before, June 29, 2023, or DEP will consider the registration withdrawn.

The Department request that PennEnergy Resources, LLC arrange a Teams meeting with the Department to discuss the requirements outlined in this letter.

Sincerely,



Samantha Lutz
Aquatic Biologist, PA DEP

cc: B. Bailey
K. Milcic
M. Stephan
S. Sweder (PennEnergy)
P. Martin (Moody)
V. Scicchitano (CEC)