

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs

Department of Environmental Protection

100 Cambridge Street Suite 900 Boston, MA 02114 • 617-292-5500

Maura T. Healey
Governor

Kimberley Driscoll
Lieutenant Governor

Rebecca L. Tepper
Secretary

Bonnie Heiple
Commissioner

January 6, 2025

Tim Burke
Blue Chair Properties, LLC
45 Woodlawn Avenue
Pittsfield, MA 01201

RE: BWR\Water Management Act (WMA)
WMA Permit ID: 9P2-1-02-236.02
Action: Final WMA Permit renewal

Dear Mr. Burke:

Please find the attached:

- Findings of Fact in Support of the renewal of WMA Permit ID: 9P2-1-02-236.02; and,
- Renewed WMA Permit ID: 9P2-1-02-236.02 for withdrawals by Blue Chair Properties, LLC in the Housatonic River Basin.

The Draft Renewal Permit was posted in the Public Notice section of the September 11, 2024 edition of the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) *Environmental Monitor*. Notice of the Draft Renewal Permit was also sent to all WMA Registrants and Permittees in the Housatonic River Basin and to other interested parties offering a 30-day comment period. No comments were submitted to MassDEP.

If you have any questions regarding the permit, please contact Andrew Brokowski at andrew.brolowski@mass.gov or 857-278-5634.

Sincerely,

Duane LeVangie
Water Management Program Chief
Bureau of Water Resources

Attachment 1:

Updated Water Conservation Plan for Blue Chair Properties, DBA Bousquet Mountain Ski Area

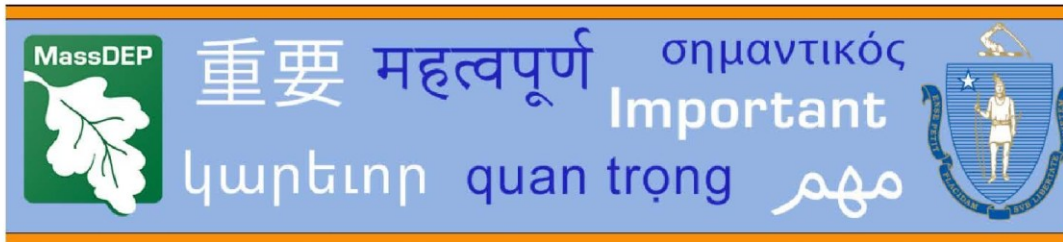
ecc: Mike Gorski, MassDEP WRO
Lydia Olson, Mass Rivers Alliance
Adam Kautza, DFW
Kevin McMillan, Bousquet Mountain
Duane LeVangie, Water Management Program Chief

This information is available in alternate format.
Please contact Melixza Esenyie at 617-626-1282.

TTY# MassRelay Service 1-800-439-2370
MassDEP Website: www.mass.gov/dep

massgov.sharepoint.com/W:\DWPArchive\WERO\2024\Pittsfield-9P210223602-Final
WMA Permit Renewal-01-06-2025

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Bousquet Ski Area\Pittsfield-Bousquet Mountain-9P210223602-Final WMA Permit
Renewal-01-06-2025



Communication for Non-English-Speaking Parties

This document is important and should be translated immediately.

If you need this document translated, please contact MassDEP's Director of Environmental Justice at the telephone number listed below.

Español Spanish

Este documento es importante y debe ser traducido inmediatamente. Si necesita traducir este documento, póngase en contacto con el Director de Justicia Ambiental de MassDEP (*MassDEP's Director of Environmental Justice*) en el número de teléfono que figura más abajo.

Português Portuguese

Este documento é importante e deve ser traduzido imediatamente. Se você precisar traduzir este documento, entre em contato com o Diretor de Justiça Ambiental do MassDEP no número de telefone listado abaixo.

繁體中文 Chinese Traditional

本文檔很重要，需要即刻進行翻譯。
如需對本文檔進行翻譯，請透過如下列示電話號碼與 MassDEP 的環境司法總監聯絡。

简体中文 Chinese Simplified

这份文件非常重要，需要立即翻译。
如果您需要翻译这份文件，请通过下方电话与 MassDEP 环境司法主任联系。

Ayisyen Kreyòl Haitian Creole

Dokiman sa a enpòtan epi yo ta dwe tradui l imedyatman. Si w bezwen tradui dokiman sa a, tanpri kontakte Direktè. Jistis Anviwònmanal MassDEP a nan nimewo telefòn ki endike anba a.

Việt Vietnamese

Tài liệu này và quan trọng và phải được dịch ngay. Nếu quý vị cần bản dịch của tài liệu này, vui lòng liên hệ với Giám Đốc Phòng Công Lý Môi Trường của MassDEP theo số điện thoại được liệt kê bên dưới.

ប្រទេសកម្ពុជា Khmer/Cambodian

ឯកសារនេះមានសារៈសំខាន់
ហើយត្រូវបានបកប្រែភ្លាមៗ។
ប្រសិនបើអ្នកត្រូវការអោយឯកសារនេះបកប្រែ
សូមទាក់ទងនាយកផ្នែកយុត្តិធម៌បរិស្ថានរបស់
MassDEPតាមរយៈលេខទូរស័ព្ទដែលបានរាយនាមខាងក្រោម។

Kriolu Kabuverdianu Cape Verdean

Es dokumentu sta important i tenki ser tradusidu imediatamenti. Se nho ta presisa ke es dokumentu sta tradisidu, por favor kontata O Diretor di Justisia di Environman di DEP ku es numero di telefoni menxionadu di baixo.

Русский Russian

Это чрезвычайно важный документ, и он должен быть немедленно переведен. Если вам нужен перевод этого документа, обратитесь к директору Департамента экологического правосудия MassDEP (MassDEP's Director of Environmental Justice) по телефону, указанному ниже.

العربية Arabic

هذه الوثيقة مهمة وتجب ترجمتها على الفور.
إذا كنت بحاجة إلى ترجمة هذه الوثيقة، فيرجى الاتصال بمدير العدالة البيئية في MassDEP على رقم الهاتف المذكور أدناه.

한국어 Korean

이 문서는 중대하므로 즉시 번역되어야 합니다.
본 문서 번역이 필요하신 경우, 매사추세츠 환경보호부의 "환경정의" 담당자 분께 문의하십시오. 전화번호는 아래와 같습니다.

հայերեն Armenian

Այս փաստաթուղթը կարևոր է, և պետք է անհապաղ թարգմանել այն:
Եթե Ձեզ անհրաժեշտ է թարգմանել այս փաստաթուղթը, դիմեք Մասաչուսեթսի շրջակա միջավայրի պահպանության նախարարության (MassDEP) Բնապահպանական հարցերով արդարադատության ղեկավարին (Director of Environmental Justice)՝ ստորև նշված հեռախոսահամարով

فارسی Farsi Persian

این نوشتار بسیار مهمی است و باید فوراً ترجمه شود.
اگر نیاز به ترجمه این نوشتار دارید لطفاً با مدیر عدالت محیط زیستی MassDEP در شماره تلفن ذکر شده زیر تماس بگیرید.

Français French

Ce document est important et doit être traduit immédiatement. Si vous avez besoin d'une traduction de ce document, veuillez contacter le directeur de la justice environnementale du MassDEP au numéro de téléphone indiqué ci-dessous.

Deutsch German

Dieses Dokument ist wichtig und muss sofort übersetzt werden. Wenn Sie eine Übersetzung dieses Dokuments benötigen, wenden Sie sich bitte an MassDEP's Director of Environmental Justice (Direktor für Umweltgerechtigkeit in Massachusetts) unter der unten angegebenen Telefonnummer.

Ελληνική Greek

Το έγγραφο αυτό είναι πολύ σημαντικό και πρέπει να μεταφραστεί αμέσως. Αν χρειάζεστε μετάφραση του εγγράφου αυτού, παρακαλώ επικοινωνήστε με τον Διευθυντή του Τμήματος Περιβαλλοντικής Δικαιοσύνης της Μασαχουσέτης στον αριθμό τηλεφώνου που αναγράφεται παρακάτω

Italiano Italian

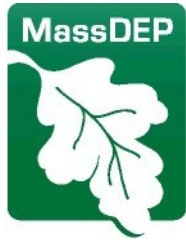
Questo documento è importante e deve essere tradotto immediatamente. Se hai bisogno di tradurre questo documento, contatta il Direttore della Giustizia Ambientale di MassDEP al numero di telefono sotto indicato.

Język Polski Polish

Ten dokument jest ważny i powinien zostać niezwłocznie przetłumaczony. Jeśli potrzebne jest tłumaczenie tego dokumentu, należy skontaktować się z dyrektorem ds. sprawiedliwości środowiskowej MassDEP pod numerem telefonu podanym poniżej.

हिन्दी Hindi

यह दस्तावेज महत्वपूर्ण है और इसका अनुवाद तुरंत किया जाना चाहिए। यदि आपको इस दस्तावेज का अनुवाद कराने की जरूरत है, तो कृपया नीचे दिए गए टेलीफोन नंबर पर MassDEP के पर्यावरणीय न्याय निदेशक से संपर्क करें।



Department of Environmental Protection

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Findings of Fact in Support of Final Permit Renewal Water Management Act Permit #9P2-1-02-236.02 Blue Chair Properties, LLC

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (“MassDEP” or “the Department”) makes the following Findings of Fact in support of the attached Renewed Water Management Act (WMA) Permit #9P2-1-02-236.02 and herewith includes reasons for issuing the Renewed Permit and for conditions of approval imposed, as required by M.G.L. c. 21G, § 11. The issuance of this renewed permit is in response to the timely filing of a water withdrawal permit renewal application for Bousquet Ski Area, currently known as Bousquet Mountain Ski Area.

Blue Chair Withdrawal History

Original permit holder, Bousquet Ski Area was issued a Water Management Act water withdrawal Permit (the “Permit”) in December of 2005 providing them with authorized withdrawal of up to 0.25 million gallons per day for 120-days per year from one groundwater point (WM11044-01G; Production well) and one surface water point (WM11044-01S; Snowmaking Pond) from late November through February for the commercial facility. In June 2020 the Permit was transferred from Bousquet Ski Area (Tamarack Ski Nominee Trust) to Blue Chair Properties, LLC (Blue Chair Properties or the “Company”). A Source Abandonment request made by Blue Chair Properties was authorized by the Department in September 2021. The abandonment effectively removed the status of the Public Water Supply (PWS) Production Well (PWS ID# 1236010-01G / WM11044-01G) as a potable drinking water source, consequently requiring the purchase of potable water from a third-party.

The Permit Extensions

WMA permits issued during the first 20-year permitting cycle for the Housatonic River Basin were due to expire on May 31, 2012. The expiration dates for all Water Management permits were extended for four years by Chapter 240 of the Acts of 2010 as amended by Chapter 238 of the Acts of 2012, collectively known as the Permit Extension Act. The expiration date for the applicant’s permit was extended to May 31, 2016. Bousquet Ski Area filed a renewal application for their Water Management Act permit in June 2015. Pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30A, § 13, and 310 CMR 36.18(7), the applicant’s permit, continues in force and effect until MassDEP issues a final decision on the permit renewal application.

The Water Management Act (M.G.L.c. 21G)

The Water Management Act (Act) requires that MassDEP issue permits that balance a variety of factors including without limitation:

- impact of the withdrawal on other sources of water.
- water availability within the Safe Yield of the source,
- reasonable protection of existing water uses, land values, investments, and enterprises,
- proposed use of the water and other existing or projected uses of water from the water source,
- municipal and Massachusetts Water Resources Commission (WRC) water resource management plans,
- reasonable conservation consistent with efficient water use,
- reasonable protection of public drinking water supplies, water quality, wastewater treatment capacity, waste assimilation capacity, groundwater recharge areas, navigation, hydropower resources, water-based recreation, wetland habitat, fish and wildlife, agriculture, floodplains, and,
- reasonable economic development and job creation.

Water Management Regulation Revisions

In 2010, the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) convened the Sustainable Water Management Initiative (SWMI) for the purpose of incorporating best available science into the management of the Commonwealth's water resources. SWMI was a multi-year process that included a wide range of stakeholders and support from the Departments of Environmental Protection, Fish and Game and Conservation and Recreation. In November 2012 the *Massachusetts Sustainable Water Management Initiative Framework Summary* was released. (<https://www.mass.gov/files/documents/2016/08/wf/swmi-framework-nov-2012.pdf>)

On November 7, 2014, the Department adopted revised Water Management Regulations at 310 CMR 36.00 that incorporated elements of the SWMI framework and, the Water Conservation Standards adopted by the Massachusetts WRC. The regulations reflect a carefully developed balance to protect the health of Massachusetts' water bodies while meeting the needs of businesses and communities for water.

Without limitation, the Department has incorporated the following into Water Management permitting:

- safe yield determinations for the major river basins based on a new methodology developed through SWMI (see the Safe Yield in the Housatonic River Basin section of this document),
- water conservation and performance standards reviewed and approved by the WRC in July 2018 (<https://www.mass.gov/files/documents/2018/09/11/ma-water-conservationstandards-2018.pdf>), including without limitation, and,
- environmental protections developed through SWMI, including without limitation:
 1. protection for Coldwater fish resources,
 2. minimization of withdrawal impacts in areas stressed by groundwater use, and,
 3. mitigation of the impacts of increasing withdrawals.

Safe Yield in the Housatonic River Basin

This renewed permit has been issued in accordance with Safe Yield methodology adopted by MassDEP on November 7, 2014, and described in the associated regulations at 310 CMR 36.13. As of the date of issuance of this permit, the Safe Yield for the Housatonic River Basin water source is 96.4 million gallons per day (MGD), with the total of authorized withdrawals at 31.01 MGD. The maximum withdrawals that will be authorized in this permit, and all other permits currently under review by the Department within the Housatonic River Basin, will be within the remaining safe yield and may be further conditioned as outlined in the regulations.

Findings of Fact for Permit Conditions in Blue Chair Properties Water Management Permit

The Department has developed a set of permit conditions from 310 CMR 36.28 that are considered for inclusion in each permit. Not all these permit conditions apply to every permitted water withdrawal. In addition, some permits have unique permit conditions to address site-specific issues.

Findings of Fact for Blue Chair Properties, LLC Permit Conditions:

- Permit conditions specific to public water suppliers do not apply.
- Abandoned as a drinking water source (PWS ID# 1236010), the *Production Well* remains as a permitted non-potable water use withdrawal point, identified as WMA Source ID: WM11044-01G.
- Currently, there are no requirements for monitoring wetlands to assess withdrawal impacts.
- There are Coldwater Fish Resources (CFR) in Wild Acres Brook which terminates in the vicinity of the permitted withdrawal point. There is only one groundwater withdrawal source which operates seasonally - during the winter months, and it cannot be shifted with another withdrawal source to feasibly optimize impact to the CFR. Therefore, no optimization regarding the CFR will be required.
- Minimization of groundwater withdrawal impacts is not a condition of this permit because both permitted withdrawal points are in a subbasin¹ with an August Net Groundwater Depletion² of less than 25%.
- Water conservation measures specific to Blue Chair Properties operations are required.
- Mitigation is not required because the authorized withdrawal does not exceed the baseline value within the subbasin the withdrawal point is located.

The following Findings of Fact are intended to describe the rationale, and to provide some additional detail, for each of the special conditions in the Blue Chair Properties Company's permit. The summary of permit conditions, as part of MassDEP's findings of fact, is not intended to, and should not be construed as, modifying any of the Permit conditions. In the event of any ambiguity between the summary and the actual permit conditions, the Permit language shall be controlling.

¹ Subbasins used for WMA permitting are the 1,395 subbasins delineated by the U.S. Geological Survey in *Indicators of Streamflow Alteration, Habitat Fragmentation, Impervious Cover, and Water Quality for Massachusetts Stream Basins* (Weiskel et al., 2010, USGS SIR 2009-5272).

² The Water Management Regulations, 310 CMR 36.03, define August net groundwater depletion (NGD) to mean the unimpeded median flow for August minus 2000-2004 groundwater returns described by U.S. Geological Survey in *Indicators of Streamflow Alteration, Habitat Fragmentation, impervious Cover and Water Quality for Massachusetts Stream Basins*.

Special Condition 1, Authorized Annual Withdrawal Volume, continues the annual average daily withdrawal rate of 0.25 MGD for a total of 30 MGY allocated in the prior permit. System-wide compliance with Special Condition 1 will be evaluated based on the metered and reported raw water source withdrawals from *Snowmaking Pond* and *Production Well*.

Special Condition 2, Maximum Daily Withdrawal from Authorized Withdrawal Points, reflects no changes to MassDEP's approved maximum daily pumping rates for Blue Chair Properties two permitted sources. Withdrawals of more than the maximum daily rate identified in Special Condition 2 requires the Department's approval.

Special Condition 3, Metering, requires the permittee to meter and maintain their authorized withdrawal points and calibrate meters annually.

Special Condition 4, Water Conservation Requirements, requires the Permittee to develop and implement water conservation measures. In accordance with the response of the Permittee to the Department's renewal permit *Order To Complete*. Blue Chair Properties shall continue to implement the snowmaking and monitoring strategies outlined in the May 2024 dated Water Conservation Plan for Blue Chair Properties, attached hereto.

General Conditions applicable to all WMA permits are included.

The Department utilized the following information during the review of the application: the Massachusetts Geographic Information System (GIS). The data layers used included: 1997 through 2017 aerial photography, water supply layers, wetlands-related layers, natural habitat layers, DFW Coldwater Fisheries layer, flood zones and USGS maps.

Please note annual reporting requirements, your renewal date, and any conditions that may apply.

The regulations governing this statement can be found at 310 CMR 36.00-36.44. DEP's Timely Action and Fee Provision, 310 CMR 4.00, authorizes an annual compliance fee for Water Management Act registrations and permits.

Please also note that this permit is for snowmaking use only; any change in use is subject to Department review and may require a permit application.



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WATER WITHDRAWAL PERMIT RENEWAL M.G.L. c. 21G

This permit is issued pursuant to the Massachusetts Water Management Act for the sole purpose of authorizing the withdrawal of a volume of water as stated below and subject to the following special and general conditions. This permit conveys no right in or to any property beyond the right to withdraw the volume of water for which it is issued.

PERMIT NUMBER: 9P2-1-02-236.02 **RIVER BASIN:** Housatonic

PERMITTEE: Blue Chair Properties, LLC
45 Woodlawn Avenue
Pittsfield, MA 01201

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 6, 2025

EXPIRATION DATE: May 31, 2032

USE: Ski area snowmaking

DAYS OF OPERATION: 120 (late November through February)

NUMBER OF WITHDRAWAL POINTS: 2

Groundwater (GW): 1

Surface Water (SW): 1

LOCATION(S):

Source	Source ID#	Latitude	Longitude	Location
Ski Area Pond	WM11044-01S	42° 25' 12.4"	73° 16' 40.4"	Pittsfield, North of Tamarack Road
Production Well	WM11044-01G	42° 25' 9.12"	73° 16' 42.2"	Pittsfield, South of Tamarack Road

SPECIAL CONDITIONS

1. Authorized Annual Withdrawal Volume

This permit authorizes the withdrawal of water from the Housatonic River Basin. The permitted volume is expressed below as a Daily Average withdrawal rate in millions of gallons per day (MGD) and as a Total Annual withdrawal volume in millions of gallons per year (MGY) that may be withdrawn for the term of the permit:

Authorized Withdrawals:

Permit Period	Authorized Withdrawal Volume	
	Daily Average (MGD)	Total Annual (MGY)
1/6/2025 to 5/31/2032	0.25	30

2. Maximum Daily Withdrawal from Authorized Withdrawal Points

This permit provides for the withdrawal not to exceed the authorized Maximum Daily withdrawal Rates listed below from the permitted sources in the Housatonic River Basin without specific advance written consent from the Department:

Maximum Daily Withdrawal Rate(s) from Authorized Withdrawal Point(s):

Withdrawal Point (Source)	Maximum Daily Rate (MGD)
Ski Area Pond	2.88 ^a
Production Well	0.173 ^b

^a = Total combined capacity of all pump intakes, as reported in the 2003 WMA Permit Application.

^b = Based on results of 10-day pump test conducted in 2005.

3. Metering

The withdrawal points included in this permit shall be metered. Meters shall be calibrated annually.

4. Water Conservation Requirements

The Permittee shall continue to implement the snowmaking and monitoring strategies outlined in the May 2024 updated Water Conservation Plan for Blue Chair Properties, as attached.

GENERAL CONDITIONS (applicable to all permittees)

No withdrawal above 100,000 gallons per day over the registered volume (if any) shall be made following the expiration of this permit, unless before that date the Department has received a renewal permit application pursuant to and in compliance with 310 CMR 36.00.

1. **Duty to Comply:** The Permittee shall always comply with the terms and conditions of this permit, the Act and all applicable State and Federal statutes and regulations.
2. **Operation and Maintenance:** The Permittee shall always properly operate and maintain all facilities and equipment installed or used to withdraw water so as not to impair the purposes and interests of the Act.
3. **Entry and Inspections:** The Permittee or the Permittee's agent shall allow personnel or authorized agents or employees of the Department to enter and examine any property over which Permittee has authority, title, or control, for the purpose of determining compliance with this permit, the Act or the regulations published pursuant thereto, upon presentation of proper identification and an oral statement of purpose.
4. **Water Emergency:** Withdrawal volumes authorized by this permit are subject to restriction in any water emergency declared by the Department pursuant to M.G.L. c. 21G, §§ 15-17, M.G.L. c. 150, § 111, or any other enabling authority.
5. **Transfer of Permits:** This permit shall not be transferred in whole or in part unless and until the Department approves such transfer in writing, pursuant to a transfer application on forms provided by the Department requesting such approval and received by the Department at least thirty (30) days before the effective date of the proposed transfer. No transfer application shall be deemed filed unless it is accompanied by the applicable transfer fee established by 310 CMR 36.33.
6. **Duty to Report:** The Permittee shall submit annually, on a form provided by the Department, a certified statement of the withdrawal. Such report is to be received by the Department by the date specified by the Department. Such report must be submitted as prescribed on the report form.
7. **Duty to Maintain Records:** The Permittee shall be responsible for maintaining withdrawal and all other records as specified by this permit.
8. **Metering:** Withdrawal points shall be metered. Meters shall be calibrated annually. Meters shall be maintained and replaced as necessary to ensure the accuracy of the withdrawal's records.
9. **Right to Amend, Suspend or Terminate:** The Department may amend, suspend, or terminate the permit in accordance with M.G.L. c. 21G and 310 CMR 36.29.

APPEALS

Any person aggrieved by this decision may request an adjudicatory hearing on this Permit by timely filing a Notice of Claim for an Adjudicatory Appeal ("Notice of Claim") in accordance with 310 CMR 36.37 and 310 CMR 1.01 within twenty-one (21) days of its receipt of this Permit. The Notice of Claim shall state specifically, clearly, and concisely the facts that are grounds for the appeal, the relief sought, and any additional information required by applicable law or regulation. A copy of this Permit shall be included with a Notice of Claim. No request for an appeal of this Permit shall be validly filed unless a copy of the request is sent at the same time by certified mail, or delivered by hand, to the local water resources management official in the community in which the withdrawal point is located; and for any person appealing this decision, who is not the Permittee, unless such person notifies the Permittee of the appeal in writing by certified mail or by hand within five (5) days of mailing the appeal to the Department.

The Notice of Claim and supporting documentation must be sent by certified mail or hand delivered to:

Case Administrator
Office of Appeals and Dispute Resolution
Department of Environmental Protection
100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900
Boston, MA 02114

In addition, the Department's fee transmittal form, together with a valid check made payable to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in the amount of \$100 for the appeal filing fee, if required, must be mailed to:

Commonwealth of Massachusetts Lock Box
Department of Environmental Protection P.O.
Box 4062
Boston, MA 02211

The Notice of Claim may be dismissed if the filing fee is not paid unless the appellant is exempt or granted a waiver. The filing fee is not required if the appellant is a city, town (or municipal agency), county, district of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, or a municipal housing authority. The Department may waive the adjudicatory filing fee for a person who shows that paying the fee will create an undue financial hardship. A person seeking a waiver must file, along with the hearing request, an affidavit setting forth the facts believed to support the claim of undue financial hardship.



Duane LeVangie
Water Management Program Chief
Bureau of Water Resources

January 6, 2025

Date

Water Management Act

UPDATED: Water Conservation Plan for Blue Chair Properties DBA
Bousquet Mountain Ski Area

May 20th, 2024

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- 2.1 Bousquet Mountain Ski Area TNC Public Supply Well
- 2.2 Bousquet Mountain Ski Area Snowmaking Water Demands

SECTION 3: SNOWMAKING PRODUCTION CONSERVATION STRATEGIES

SECTION 4: MA DEP REQUIREMENTS

1.0 INTRODUCTION

As part of the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection's (MADEP) Water Management Act (WMA) Regulation 310 CMR 36.00, Bousquet Mountain Ski Area (Bousquet) is updating this Water Conservation Plan in response to a request made by MADEP on March 13th, 2024, as part of the WMA Permit 9P2-1-02236.02.

This updated Water Conservation Plan for non-potable water usage at Bousquet Mountain Ski Area only.

(No change)

Bousquet utilizes bedrock production well for snowmaking activities at the site. The snowmaking production well is west of the maintenance building. Snowmaking production well is used only in November, December, January, and February of every year. The average hours of snowmaking per year since the production well was installed in 2001 has been on average 186 hours. The production well is used to accelerate the recharge of water in the snowmaking pond during snowmaking activities. The snowmaking production well and pond exceed the WMA water withdrawal threshold volume of

100,000 gpd on average for three consecutive months during the year, or 9 million unregistered gallons over three months. The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MADEP) issued WMA permit # W045571 for Bousquet Mountain Ski Area Snowmaking Production Well and Snowmaking Pond on December 6th, 2005

2.0 WATER DEMANDS (Updated)

2.1 Bousquet Mountain Ski Area TNC Public Supply Well – Abandoned September 8th, 2021.

- On September 8, 2021, Bousquet abandoned production well PWS ID# 1236010-01G and committed to purchasing potable water from a municipal water supplier.
- September 2021 Bousquet abandoned the onsite sewage disposal system and connected to the city of Pittsfield sewage system.

2.2 Bousquet Mountain Ski Area Snowmaking Water Demands

Bousquet utilizes water from the onsite pond for snowmaking activities. During the snowmaking activities, the snowmaking production well is pumped into the pond to accelerate the pond recharge. The pond is also recharged by an influent stream to the west surface water runoff and groundwater discharge.

Water withdrawal from the pond for snowmaking activities is metered at the snowmaking pump intake. Water withdrawal usage historically has been between 22 and 30 million gallons per year.

(Structural changes)

- The pump house was renovated in 2020
- 4 snowmaking pumps removed
- Non-serviceable flow meter removed

3.0 SNOWMAKING PRODUCTION CONSERVATION STRATEGIES (UPDATED)

Based on the current and projected water usage for snowmaking activities at Bousquet Mountain Ski Area, we have implemented several conservation and monitoring strategies as required by the State of Massachusetts.

Our efforts aim to optimize water usage while maintaining high-quality snow production.

Key Conservation Strategies:

1. Replacement of Old Snowmaking Pipes:
 - From 2020 to 2022, we replaced 95% of the old, leaking snowmaking pipes (See Attachment #1)
2. Upgrade of Snow Guns:
 - Between 2020 and 2022, we upgraded from old, inefficient water/air mixed snow guns to 86 high-efficiency electrical snow guns. (See Attachment #2)
 - Additionally, we installed 19 fully automatic snow guns that self-adjust to temperature and humidity changes, increasing efficiency and reducing water usage.
3. Implementation of SmartSnow Technology:
 - We added SmartSnow to monitor our snowmaking system, allowing real-time adjustments to optimize water usage and reduce utility costs.
4. Replacement of Stick Guns:
 - We removed stick guns from the Drifter trail due to its narrowness and prevailing winds. Instead, we use ground-based portable snow guns, which are less susceptible to wind drift, thus keeping snow on the trail and reducing the water required to cover it.
5. Pump House Renovation:
 - In 2020, we renovated the pump house by removing four old, inefficient water pumps and installing two high-efficiency 1250 GPM pumps controlled by a Torrent pump and automated control system. This significantly increased system pressure, improving snow production and quality while reducing water content.
6. Design and Construction of Closed-Loop Systems:
 - We designed and built two independent snowmaking closed-loop systems with return lines that direct unused water back to the pump station, replacing the old open drain system that drained at various points throughout the mountain.
7. Improved Onsite Drainage:

- We enhanced drainage throughout the mountain to efficiently direct water back to the pond, reducing snow loss during winter rain events and minimizing the need for repair snowmaking. (See Attachment #3)

8. Grooming Fleet Upgrades:

- We retired the old, inefficient grooming fleet and purchased two newer groomers while leasing one. These new groomers are better at managing snow depths on the mountain.

9. Annual Equipment Maintenance:

- We conduct yearly maintenance to ensure the snowmaking system remains efficient.

These strategies have been instrumental in reducing our water usage while maintaining optimal snow production. We remain committed to continuous improvement and innovation in our snowmaking practices to ensure sustainability and efficiency.