

From: Cumberland Valley Trout Unlimited <cvtu052@25532367.mailchimpapp.com>

Date: Monday, July 29, 2024 at 4:59 PM

To: Dennis Pastucha <dennis.pastucha@outdoorsg.com>

Subject: Let Your Voice Be Heard!

Protecting Cold Water Resources - Your Voice Matters



Proposed Development of 3 Warehouses in West Pennsboro Township May Threaten Big Spring Creek

What we know.

Cumberland Valley Trout Unlimited (CVTU) recently learned from the Big Spring Watershed Association of proposed development plans in West Pennsboro Township for the construction of 3 warehouses and associated infrastructure at 3485 Ritner Highway, Newville, PA.

CVTU has concerns about the warehouse project and its potential harmful effect on the groundwater which feeds Big Spring Creek. Big Spring Creek is designated as a high quality/exceptional value waterway and is home to high densities of brook trout. The warehouses

would be located less than 4000 feet from the headwaters of Big Spring Creek and is well within the Big Spring surface watershed.

As a result of these concerns, CVTU recently sent letters on behalf of the chapter to both the Cumberland County Conservation District as well as the Pennsylvania Department of Environment urging full scrutiny of the developers stormwater management permit.

What can you do?

You can make your voice heard alongside CVTU, members of the Big Spring Watershed Association, and other concerned citizens.

In the section below is a draft/editable letter you can copy and paste into an email to send into the state and county by using a single email address. The stormwater permit submitted by the developer is currently under review, so NOW is the perfect time to urge regulatory agencies to hold the developer to the strictest stormwater management standards.

Sample Email Content and Instructions

Below is a sample letter to cut and paste into an email to the DEP and Cumberland County Conservation District personnel currently reviewing the stormwater (NPDES) permit application. Submit your comments to RA-EPWW-SCRO@pa.gov Be sure to include the NPDES Permit Application No. PAD210118 in the subject heading and provide your name and home address.

Subject: NPDES Permit Application No. PAD210118

To Whom it Concern,

I would like to express my grave concern that the proposed 1.3 million square foot warehouse complex at 3485 Ritner Highway in West Pennsboro Township does not adhere to the DEP's best management practices for stormwater management. I urge the DEP to follow fully all best management practices in its consideration of the application to ensure the protection of the community's groundwater resource.

The site is about 3400 feet upslope of Big Spring Creek and in its surface watershed. Big Spring Creek is designated as a High Quality/Exceptional Value waterway. Furthermore, Big Spring Creek serves as Newville's secondary water source and the groundwater that creates Big Spring is also the source of water for residential wells in the area.

The site of the proposed development is particularly sensitive to potential contamination from stormwater as it sits on limestone karst and has several sinkholes and surface depressions. Since limestone is porous, contaminants from stormwater can easily enter into the groundwater if not properly filtrated through soils. Once in the groundwater, contaminants can travel long distances over a relatively short time through subsurface fractures and find their way into Big Spring Creek, residential wells, and Newville's primary water source at Cool Spring.

The sensitive nature of the site and its proximity to sources of public drinking water requires a most careful examination of the development plans. The DEP's Stormwater Best Management Practices Manual states: "When addressing stormwater management issues, the complexities of a karst system demand a more rigorous scrutiny than other geologic settings."

The proposed plans do not adhere to best management practices for stormwater management on karst as outlined in the DEP's Stormwater Management Manual. Failure to follow best management practices poses a serious threat to the area's groundwater, Big Spring Creek, Newville's water source, and to residential wells in the area.

Therefore, I respectfully request that the DEP both deny this application in its current form because it does not comply with best management practices and give full scrutiny to the potential impacts of the proposed development on this particularly sensitive area. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Your name

Home address

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Members and Friends of Cumberland Valley Trout Unlimited

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