

MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board

FROM: Warren Zwanka, P.G., Division Director, Resource Management

THRU: Steve Minnis, Deputy Executive Director, Business and Community Services

DATE: August 30, 2019

RE: Approval of a Modification of Water Use Permit 2-121-219095-6, Pilgrim's Pride Project, for Industrial Use, Suwannee County

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends the Governing Board approve Water Use Permit number 2-121-219095-6 with seventeen standard conditions and six special limiting conditions, to Pilgrim's Pride Corporation, in Suwannee County.

BACKGROUND

This is a renewal of an existing industrial water use. The project consists of a 452-acre poultry processing facility located approximately 12 miles northwest of Live Oak in Suwannee County. Groundwater from seven active and two proposed wells is used for industrial uses. The 1.9500 mgd allocation includes 1.1450 mgd for process water, 0.0400 mgd for potable use, 0.3150 mgd for evaporative losses, and 0.5500 mgd of water contained in the product; and results in no change from the previous permit allocation. The facility emphasizes water conservation by reusing 0.1000 mgd of reclaimed water to supplement groundwater for wash-down, cooling, and feather transport, and a portion of the total use is also recharged by application on a 50-acre spray field.

All wells will be monitored by the permittee using totalizing flow meters and will be reported monthly to the District's E-permitting website. There have been no reports of interference or observed harm to water resources associated with previous withdrawals at this project.

Staff has determined the proposed withdrawals are in accordance with Minimum Flows and Minimum Water Levels (MFLs) and MFL recovery strategies pursuant to Chapters 62-42, 40B-8, and Emergency Rule 40BER17-01, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.). The application is complete and satisfies the conditions for issuance in Chapter 40B-2, F.A.C.

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