

**National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit Application for
Regulated Small Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems in Puerto Rico**

Notice of Intent (NOI)

Item 1: Activities that require a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit.

The Central Administration of the University of Puerto Rico operates a Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) located in the Agricultural Experiment Station in Río Piedras, Puerto Rico. Road #1 divides the land of the Agricultural Experiment Station in two. The south side consists of *Finca Mariana* and the north side consists of: *Finca Robledo*, *Finca Unión* and *Finca Solís*. From this point forward we will refer to the south side as South Botanical Garden and to the north side as North Botanical Garden because they are better known as this.

There are four entities of the University of Puerto Rico inside the Agricultural Experiment Station grounds: the Central Administration, Botanical Garden, Agricultural Extension Service and the Agricultural Experiment Station itself. Also, there are two entities that do not belong to the University of Puerto Rico's system: the Federal Forest Service located in the South Botanical Garden and the Conservation Trust of Puerto Rico located in the North Botanical Garden.

Item 2: Name, mailing address, and location of the facility for which the application is submitted.

The operator of the MS4 is a public university and its President is Att. Antonio García Padilla. The mailing address and phone number is:

University of Puerto Rico
Central Administration
President's Office
PO Box 364984
San Juan, PR 00936-4984

Phone Number: (787) 250-0000, Ext. 2001, 2002, 2004, 2005, 2018

Item 3: Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) Code that reflects the service provided by the facility.

The SIC established by the federal Office of Management and Budget for public administration/general federal, state or local activities is 9199.

Item 4: Operator name, address, telephone number, ownership status, and status as a federal, state, local, tribal or other public entity.

The primary administrative contact of the Central Administration of the University of Puerto Rico is Att. Antonio García Padilla. The mailing address, telephone number and ownership status of the Central Administration is provided in Item 2.

Item 5: List of permits or construction approvals received or applied under any of the following programs: Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, Underground Injection Control under the Safe Drinking Water Act, National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Program under the Clean Water Act, Prevention of Significant Deterioration Program under the Clean Air Act, Nonattainment Program under the Clean Air Act, the National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants, preconstruction approval under the Clean Air Act, Ocean Dumping Permits under the Marine Protection Research and Sanctuaries Act, dredge or fill permits under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act or other relevant environmental permits, including state permits.

The following list specifies the permits issued under several environmental regulations (state and federal), for the entities of the University of Puerto Rico located in the Agricultural Experiment Station. The information is separated by entity, type of permit and status.

Central Administration

1. Stationary Emission Source Permit (PFE-LC-65-1202-2157-II-O)—State permit that includes five electric generators.
Expiration Date: January 23, 2008.
2. Hazardous Waste Generator Number (PRR000014803)—Federal permit that authorizes the generation of hazardous waste from the Printing Office and maintenance activities.
Expiration Date: None (Not applicable.)
3. Used Oil Generator Number (AU-06-65-4683)—State permit that authorizes the generation of used oil from vehicle maintenance operations.
Expiration Date: None (Not applicable.)
4. Underground Injection Control—On September 25, 2006 the Central Administration completed the closure of one underground injection well property of the Central Administration. At present, the Central Administration has four wells in the South Botanical Garden and one in the North Botanical Garden. These systems have no Operation Permit because they are not in use and are under a closure process with the Environmental Quality Board. The process to close two additional wells will start in 2007.

Botanical Garden

1. Discharge Authorization (AUA-E-01-107-014)—State authorization to discharge used waters from the University of Puerto Rico's installations located in the South Botanical Garden to the Sewer System of the Puerto Rico Aqueduct and Sewer Authority.
2. Discharge Authorization (AUA-E-06-107-021)—State authorization to discharge used waters from the University of Puerto Rico's installations located in the North Botanical Garden to the Sewer System of the Puerto Rico Aqueduct and Sewer Authority.

Agricultural Experiment Station

1. Stationary Emission Source Permit (PFE-LC-65-0604-0820-II-O)—State permit that includes four electric generators.
2. Hazardous Waste Generator Number (PRR000014472)—Federal permit that authorizes the generation of hazardous waste from the Rum Pilot Plant and Food Technology. Both facilities are closed.

Expiration Date: None (Not applicable.)

3. Hazardous Waste Generator Number (PRR000014464)—Federal permit that authorizes the generation of hazardous waste from the Agricultural Experiment Station. This facility is in operation.

Expiration Date: None (Not applicable.)

4. Used Oil Generator Number (AU-97-65-0643)—State permit that authorizes the generation of used oil from vehicle maintenance operations.

Expiration Date: None (Not applicable.)

5. Underground Injection Control—On September 25, 2006 the Central Administration completed the closure of one underground injection well property of the Agricultural Experiment Station. At the present time, the Agricultural Experiment Station has nine wells in the South Botanical Garden. These systems do not have an Operation Permit because they are not in use and are under a closure process with the Environmental Quality Board. We started the process of closing four wells in 2006 and expect to complete it by 2007.

Agricultural Extension Service

The Agricultural Extension Service does not have permits issued under the above environmental regulations.

Item 6: Topographic map (or other map if a topographic map is unavailable) of the facility showing: intake and discharge structures, hazardous waste treatment, storage or disposal facilities, wells for underground injection of facility's fluids and wells, springs and other surface water bodies and drinking water wells listed in public records or otherwise known to the applicant in the map.

A map of the MS4 and a diagram showing the underground injection wells of the Central Administration, Botanical Garden and Agricultural Experiment Station are provided (**Attachment 1**).

Item 7: A brief description of the nature of the business.

The University of Puerto Rico is a public higher education institution composed of eleven campuses geographically distributed throughout the island and a Central Administration located within the Agricultural Experiment Station in Río Piedras, PR. It is the largest university system in Puerto Rico and in the Caribbean with approximately 69,063 enrolled students and 14,974 employees. Nine of the campuses operate an MS4, located in one of the urbanized areas as defined by the 2000 Census. The complex formed by the Central Administration, Botanical Garden, Agricultural Experiment Station and Agricultural Extension Service also qualified as an MS4.

Item 8: Estimate of the square mileage served by the MS4.

The MS4 serves an approximate area of 0.45 square miles.

Item 9: Description of the best management practices to be implemented for each of the control measures.

See **Attachment 2**.

Item 10: Description of the measurable goals for each of the best management practices, including the month and year in which the action will be taken.

See **Attachment 2**.

Item 11: Persons responsible for implementing or coordinating the applicant's Storm Water Management Program.

The persons responsible for the implementation of the Storm Water Management Program and activities related to the MS4 operation will be:

1. Mr. Víctor Figueroa, Director
Administrative Services Office
University of Puerto Rico
Central Administration
South Botanical Garden
1187 Flamboyán Street
San Juan, PR 00926-1117

Phone Numbers: (787) 250-0000 Ext. 2045, 2047 or (787) 764-7972

2. Mr. Charles J. Vecchini
Acting Director
Botanical Garden
South Botanical Garden
1187 Flamboyán Street
San Juan, PR 00926-1117

Phone Numbers: (787) 250-0000, Ext. 6730, 6731 or (787) 758-9957

3. Mr. Sergio Rodríguez, Coordinator
Department of General Services
Agricultural Experiment Station
South Botanical Garden
1193 Guayacán Street
San Juan, PR 00926-1118

Phone Number: (787) 767-9705, Ext. 2238, 2240
4. Mrs. Idalia Santiago
Administrative Official
General Services Division
Agricultural Extension Service
South Botanical Garden
1204 Ceiba Street
San Juan, PR 00926-1120

Phone Number: (787) 758-8666

Appendix A: Eligibility and screening procedures relating to species listed and critical habitat designated under the Endangered Species Act (ESA).

The MS4 operated by the Central Administration of the University of Puerto Rico meets **Criterion E:**

Storm water discharges associated with industrial activity and allowable non storm water discharges are not likely to adversely affect any federally listed endangered and threatened (listed) species or designated critical habitat.

Around 63 species of birds have been reported in the Botanical Garden and their habitats are identified. Among these, six are endemic and twelve are migrating species. Two of the migrating species are endangered: the Brown Pelican (*Pelecanus occidentalis*) and the Piping Plover (*Charadrius melodus*). Some members of the endangered tree *Cóbana Negra* (*Stahlia monosperma*) have been identified in several places of the Botanical Garden, specifically near *El Bosque del Legado Generacional* and *El Jardín Taíno*. Also, a project to propagate some endangered species has been conducted between the Herbarium of the Botanical Garden and the Conservation Trust of Puerto Rico. At the present time, they are cultivating in tree nurseries the following: *Palo de Rosa* (*Ottoschulzia rhodoxylon*), *Higüero de Sierra* (*Crescentia portoricensis*), *Matabuey* (*Goetzea elegans*), *Palo de Jazmín* (*Styrax portoricensis*), *Cóbana Negra* (*Stahlia monosperma*) and *Eugenia woodburyana* to reforest the Botanical Garden. This information was reviewed with the official List of Endangered Species of the US Fish & Wildlife Service and the Department of Natural and Environmental Resources of Puerto Rico.

The best management practices (Item 9 of the Notice of Intent) proposed to control storm water in the MS4 operated by the Central Administration will not affect these species or their habitat in the Botanical Garden. So, the MS4 is eligible for coverage under the NPDES General Permit for the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico under Criterion E.

Appendix B: Eligibility and screening procedures relating to historic properties and the National Historic Preservation Act.

The MS4 operated by the Central Administration of the University of Puerto Rico meets **Criterion B:**

Your discharge related activities (i.e. construction and/or installation of storm water best management practices that involve subsurface disturbance) will not affect historic properties.

There are two structures of historical value in the South Botanical Garden which are under evaluation by the State Historic Preservation Office. They are still not included in the National Registry of Historic Places. These are: the First Aqueduct of San Juan and the Chimney of a Sugar Cane Central. Both places are located in the west side of the South Botanical Garden. The aqueduct to be restored consists of two buildings and the dam at the Río Piedras River. The chimney is located in the same site.

Located near the entrance of the South Botanical Garden is the Río Piedras River Bridge in Road #8839, Km. 12.5. It was included in the National Registry of Historic Places in July 19, 1995.

The best management practices (Item 9 of the Notice of Intent) proposed to control storm water in the MS4 operated by the Central Administration will not affect these places. So, the MS4 is eligible for coverage under the NPDES General Permit for the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico under Criterion B.