

UNITED STATES
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION II
290 Broadway
New York, New York 10007-1866

**FACT SHEET
FOR DRAFT NPDES PERMIT TO DISCHARGE
INTO THE WATERS OF THE UNITED STATES**

NPDES Application No. **PR0025445**

Name and Address of Applicant:

Puerto Rico Aqueduct and Sewer Authority
P.O. Box 7066
Barrio Obrero Station
San Juan, Puerto Rico 00916

Name and Address of Facility where Discharge Occurs:

Guayama Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant
Guayama, Puerto Rico

Receiving Water: **Caribbean Sea**

Classification: SC

Permit Writer: Yasmin Laguer, CEPD

I. LOCATION OF DISCHARGE

The above-named applicant has applied for a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit, to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to discharge into the designated receiving water. The approximate U.S.G.S. coordinates for the outfall are:

Latitude **17° 55' 21" N**
Longitude **66° 09' 27" W**

II. DESCRIPTION OF FACILITY

This is a facility designed to provide secondary treatment for an average daily flow of **10** million gallons per day (MGD) of wastewater.

III. DESCRIPTION OF DISCHARGE / DRAFT PERMIT CONDITIONS

A description of the type and quantity of pollutants which are discharged or proposed to be discharged are appended as Attachment I. The effluent limitations, monitoring requirements, schedules of compliance and other conditions of the draft permit are also described in Attachment I.

IV. STATE CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

State Certification requirements based upon a Water Quality Certificate (WQC) issued by the Environmental Quality Board (EQB) of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico are described in Part I of the draft permit. Review and appeals of limitations and conditions attributable to State Certification shall be made through the applicable procedures of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and may not be made through EPA procedures.

V. PROCEDURES FOR REACHING A FINAL DECISION ON THE DRAFT PERMIT

These procedures, which are set forth in 40 CFR 124, are described in the public notice of preparation of this draft permit. Included in the public notice are requirements for the submission of comments by a specified date, procedures for requesting a hearing and the nature of the hearing, and procedures for participation in the final agency decision.

VI. EPA CONTACT

Additional information concerning the draft Permit may be obtained between the hours of 8:00 A.M. and 4:30 P.M., Monday through Friday from:

Mr. Jaime Geliga, Chief
Municipal Water Program Branch
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency-Region II
City View Plaza II – Suite 7000
48 RD. 165 Km. 1.2
Guaynabo, P.R. 00968-8069
787- 977-5870

Mr. José C. Font, Director
Caribbean Environmental Protection Division
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency - Region II
City View Plaza II – Suite 7000
48 RD. 165 Km. 1.2
Guaynabo, P.R. 00968-8069
787- 977-5870

ATTACHMENT I

DESCRIPTION OF DISCHARGE / DRAFT PERMIT CONDITIONS

Discharge 001

The treatment plant effluent is discharged through outfall No. 001 into the **Caribbean Sea (SC)**. The following are the proposed effluent limitations / permit conditions:

NOTE: The Federal definition of secondary treatment, 40 CFR Section 133.102, is the basis for the effluent limitations for BOD₅ and Total Suspended Solids.

1. Maximum daily discharge: **10 MGD**
2. Average Monthly BOD₅: Concentration - **30 mg/l**
Average Weekly BOD₅: Concentration - **45 mg/l**
Percent Removal - **85 %**
3. Average Monthly Suspended Solids: Concentration - **30 mg/l**
Average Weekly Suspended Solids: Concentration - **45 mg/l**
Percent Removal - **85 %**
4. The effluent values for pH shall be maintained within the limits of **7.3 to 8.5**.
5. The effluent limitation for **Arsenic, Color, Copper, Cyanide, Dissolved Oxygen, Enterococci Density, Fecal Coliforms, Lead, Mercury, Nitrogen, Oil & Grease, pH, Residual Chlorine, Silver, Solids and Other Matter, Sulfide, Surfactants, Suspended, Colloidal or Settleable Solids, Taste and Odor Producing Substances, Temperature, and Turbidity** are based on EQB's WQC.
6. The water quality-based numerical limitations from the existing permit for **Arsenic, Copper, Lead and Silver** have been relaxed in the WQC issued by EQB. EPA has performed a permit effluent limitation analysis based on existing effluent quality (EEQ) for these parameters. This analysis was performed with the existing information from the Discharge Monitoring reports. EPA has determined that it is appropriate to relax these limitations without violating the anti-backsliding provisions of the CWA, since one of the exceptions to the provisions has been satisfied. Section 303(d)(4) of the CWA allows relaxation of the water quality-based effluent limitations developed in accordance with a Total Maximum Daily Load/Waste Load Allocation (TMDL/WLA) procedure, provided that attainment of water quality standards is assured and antidegradation requirements are considered. The EQB water quality certificate constitutes a determination that the limit is sufficient to assure that the water quality standard is or will be attained. Antidegradation requirements are not violated by relaxing the limit since the permittee will be discharging the pollutant at the same level as in the receiving water.

7. The water quality-based effluent limitation from the previous permit for for **2,4,-6 Trichlorophenol, 2,4- Dichlorophenol, 2,4- Dimethylphenol, 2,4- Dinitrophenol, 2-Chlorophenol, 2,Methyl-4,6 -Dinitrophenol, Pentachlorophenol, and Phenol** are not included in the Final WQC issued by EQB. EPA has determined that it is appropriate to remove the effluent limitation for this parameters without violating the anti-backsliding provisions of the CWA, in accordance with section 402(o), since one of the exceptions to the provisions has been satisfied. CWA Sec. 402(o)(2)(B)(i) allows backsliding if information is available which was not available at the time of permit issuance and would have justified a less stringent effluent limitation at the time of permit issuance. Information submitted in the NPDES application and the Discharge Monitoring reports submitted during the previous permit indicate that the discharge from outfall 001 cannot reasonably be expected to contribute to a water quality exceedance for these parameters. Therefore, a water quality-based effluent limitation is not necessary for these parameters. Antidegradation requirements are not violated by removing the limits for these parameters. Since the permittee will be discharging the pollutant at the same level, the discharge would not contribute to further degradation of the receiving water and existing uses would be maintained.
8. The water quality-based numerical limitation from the existing permit for **Arsenic and Copper** have been relaxed in the WQC issued by EQB. EPA has performed a permit effluent limitation analysis based on existing effluent quality (EEQ) for these parameters. This analysis was performed with the existing information from the Discharge Monitoring reports. EPA has determined that it is appropriate to relax these limitations without violating the anti-backsliding provisions of the CWA, since one of the exceptions to the provisions has been satisfied. Section 303(d)(4) of the CWA allows relaxation of the water quality-based effluent limitations developed in accordance with a Total Maximum Daily Load/Waste Load Allocation (TMDL/WLA) procedure, provided that attainment of water quality standards is assured and antidegradation requirements are considered. The EQB water quality certificate constitutes a determination that the limit is sufficient to assure that the water quality standard is or will be attained. Antidegradation requirements are not violated by relaxing the limit since the permittee will be discharging the pollutant at the same level as in the receiving water.
9. The water quality-based effluent limitation from the previous permit for **Lead and Silver** have been replaced with a less stringent water quality-based limitation in the WQC issued by the EQB. CWA Sec. 402(o)(2)(B)(i) allows backsliding if information is available which was not available at the time of permit issuance and would have justified a less stringent effluent limitation at the time of permit issuance. EPA has determined that it is appropriate to relax the effluent limitation for these parameters without violating anti-

backsliding provisions of the CWA, in accordance with section 402(o)(2), since one of the exceptions to the provisions has been satisfied; and section 402(o)(3) since it complies with EQB's WQS which include antidegradation requirements. The EQB WQC constitutes a determination that the limit is sufficient to assure that the water quality standards are or will be attained.