

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. **PR0020583**

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:

**Las Marías, PRASA Waste Water Treatment Plant  
Las Marías, Puerto Rico**

Receiving Water: Arenas Creek

Classification: SD

Permit Writer: Viviana Colón

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 18° 15' 17" N  
Longitude 66° 59' 47" W

II. DESCRIPTION OF FACILITY

This is a facility designed to provide secondary treatment for an average daily flow of **0.25** 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. All parameters for the draft permit are from the Intent to Issue a Water Quality Certificate issued by the Environmental Quality Board of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

### IV. STATE CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

State Certification requirements based upon the Intent to Issued a Water Quality Certificate (IWQC) 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  
#48 RD, 165, K1.2  
Guaynabo, Puerto Rico 00968-8069  
787- 977-5870

Mr. José C. Font, Acting Director  
Caribbean Environmental Protection Division  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region II  
City View Plaza II  
#48 RD, 165, K1.2  
Guaynabo, Puerto Rico 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 **Arenas Creek (SD)**.

The following are the proposed effluent limitations / permit conditions:

1. The effluent limitations, monitoring requirements, and other conditions of this permit are described in the draft permit. The effluent limitations in the permit are equivalent to the most stringent values specified in the applicable technology-based guidelines or water quality-based limitations. All anti-backsliding decisions are made in accordance with EPA Region II Antibacksliding Policy.
2. Maximum daily discharge: **0.25 MGD**
3. The effluent limitation for **Arsenic, BOD, Cadmium, Color, Copper, Free Cyanide, Dissolved Oxygen, Fecal Coliforms, Flow, Mercury, Nitrate plus Nitrite, Oil & Grease, pH, Residual Chlorine, Selenium, Solids and Other Matters, Sulfide, Surfactants, Suspended, Colloidal or Settleable Solids, Taste and Odor Producing Substances, Temperature, Total Ammonia, Total Coliforms, Total Phosphorus, Total Suspended Solids and Turbidity** are based on EQB's Intent Water Quality Certificate.
4. The water quality-based effluent limitations from the previous permit for **2,4,6 - Trichlorophenol, 2,4- Dichlorophenol, 2,4 - Dimethylphenol, 2,4 - Dinitrophenol, 2 - Chlorophenol, 2 - Methyl - 4,6 -Dinitrophenol, Fluoride, Lead, Pentachlorophenol, and Phenol** are not included in the IWQC issued by EQB. EPA has determined that it is appropriate to remove the effluent limitation for these 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.

5. The water quality-based effluent limitation from the previous permit for **BOD, Cadmium, Color, and Mercury** have been replaced with a more stringent water quality-based limitation in the IWQC issued by the EQB. Pursuant to Section 401 (d) of the Act and 40 C.F.R. 122.44 (d) and 124.55, all State certified limitations and requirements contained in a Section 401 certification must be incorporated into a NPDES permit issued by EPA. The water quality-based effluent limitations referenced in this paragraph have been included in the draft NPDES permit, based on EQB's IWQC.
6. The water quality-based effluent limitation from the previous permit for **Arsenic, BOD, Copper, Dissolved Oxygen, and Total Ammonia** has been replaced with a less stringent water quality-based limitation in the IWQC issued by the EQB. 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), since one of the exceptions to the provisions has been satisfied. Section 303(d)(4) of the CWA allows relaxation of water quality-based effluent limitations developed in accordance with a Total Maximum Daily Load/Waste Load Allocation (TMDL/WLA) or Mixing Zone procedures, 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 standards are or will be attained.
7. The water quality-based numerical limitation from the existing permit for **Copper** has been relaxed in the WQC issued by EQB. EPA has performed a permit effluent limitation analysis based on existing effluent quality (EEQ) for this parameter. This analysis was performed with the existing information from the Discharge Monitoring reports. EPA has determined that it is appropriate to relax this limitation without violating the anti-backsliding provisions of the CWA, since one of the exceptions to the provisions has been satisfied. 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.
8. **Special Condition 15** was modified from the requirement imposed in the water quality certificate issued by the Puerto Rico EQB. EPA has imposed the quarterly testing requirement to collect data necessary to determine whether this discharge has the reasonable potential to cause or contribute to an exceedance of Puerto Rico's water quality standards for toxicity, pursuant to water quality based permitting requirements at 40 CFR 122.44(d)(1), which requires EPA and delegated states to evaluate each National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit for the potential to exceed state numeric or narrative water quality standards, including those for toxics, and to establish effluent limitations for those facilities with the "reasonable potential" to exceed those standards. These federal regulations require both chemical specific limits, based on the state numeric water quality standards or other criteria developed by EPA, and whole effluent toxicity effluent limits.

**Special Condition 15** was also modified to make clarify the right of EPA to reopen this permit to include additional toxicity requirements if warranted.