

**NPDES PERMIT NO. PR0022756**

**AUTHORIZATION TO DISCHARGE UNDER THE  
NATIONAL POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM**

In compliance with the provisions of the Clean Water Act, as amended, 33 U.S.C. • 1251 et. seq. (the "Act"),

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

hereinafter referred to as "the permittee" is authorized to discharge from a facility named **Ponce Nueva Water Treatment Plant** located at:

State Road No. 501, Km. 1,  
Ponce, Puerto Rico 00731

to receiving waters named:

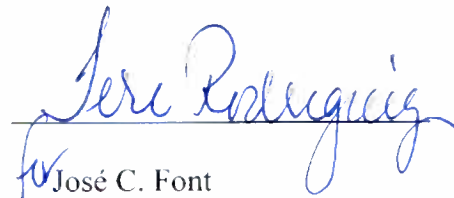
**Canas River**

in accordance with effluent limitations, monitoring requirements and other conditions set forth in Parts I and II hereof. All references to Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations are to regulations that are in effect on the effective date of this permit, including all amendments thereto published in the Federal Register. Unless otherwise specified herein, all terms are defined as provided in the applicable regulations under Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations.

This permit shall become effective on **April 1, 2013**, which is the Effective Date of the Permit (EDP).

This permit and the authorization to discharge shall expire at midnight, **March 31, 2018**.

Signed this 20<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2012.

  
for José C. Font  
Acting Director  
Caribbean Environmental  
Protection Division

**TABLE A-1 EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS AND MONITORING REQUIREMENTS**

During the period beginning on the EDP and lasting through the expiration date of the permit, the permittee is authorized to discharge from outfall serial number 001 (filters and settling tanks washwater). Such discharge shall be limited and monitored by the permittee as specified below:

Receiving Water Classification: SD

<u><b>Effluent Characteristics</b></u>	<u><b>Gross Discharge Limitations</b></u>		<u><b>Monitoring Requirements</b></u>	
	<b>Monthly Avg.</b>	<b>Daily Max</b>	<b>Measurements Frequency</b>	<b>Sample Type</b>
BOD <sub>5</sub> (mg/L) $\alpha$ <sup>1,2,3,4</sup>		15.0	Monthly	Grab
Color (Pt-Co Units) <sup>2,3</sup>		15	Quarterly	Grab
Copper (Cu) ( $\mu$ g/L) <sup>2,5</sup>		14	Monthly	Grab
Dissolved Oxygen (mg/L) $\alpha$ <sup>1,2,3,4</sup>	Shall contain not less than 4.0 mg/L.		Daily	Grab
Fecal Coliforms (colonies / 100 mL) <sup>1,2,3</sup>	The geometric mean of a series of representative samples (at least five samples), of the waters taken sequentially shall not exceed 200 colonies/100 mL. Not more than 20% of the samples shall exceed 400 colonies/100 mL.		$\lambda$	Grab
Flow m <sup>3</sup> /day (MGD) <sub>1,3,5</sub>		3,785.4 (1.000)	Continuous Recording	
Lead (Pb) ( $\mu$ g/L) $\alpha$ <sub>2,3,4,6</sub>		7.0	Monthly	Grab
pH (SU) <sup>2,3</sup>	Shall always lie between 6.0 – 9.0.		Daily	Grab
Residual Chlorine (mg/L) $\gamma$ <sup>2,3</sup>		0.50		

<u>Effluent Characteristics</u>	<u>Gross Discharge Limitations</u>		<u>Monitoring Requirements</u>	
	Monthly Avg.	Daily Max	Measurements Frequency	Sample Type
Solids and Other Matter <sup>2,3</sup>	The waters of Puerto Rico shall not contain floating debris, scum or other floating materials attributable to the discharge in amounts sufficient to be unsightly or deleterious to the existing or designated uses of the water body.		---	---
Sulfates (SO <sub>4</sub> ) (mg/L) <sup>2,3</sup>		----	ϕ	Grab
Suspended, Colloidal or Settleable Solids (mL/L) <sup>1,2,3</sup>	Solids from wastewater sources shall not cause deposition in or be deleterious to the existing or designated uses of the water body.		Daily	Grab
Taste and Odor-producing Substances <sup>2,3</sup>	Shall not be present in amounts that will interfere with the use for potable water supply, or will render any undesirable taste or odor to edible aquatic life.		---	---
Temperature °F (°C) <sup>2,3</sup>	Except for natural causes no heat may be added to the waters of Puerto Rico, which would cause the temperature of any site to exceed 90 °F (32.2°C).		Daily	Grab
Total Ammonia (NH <sub>3</sub> ) (mg/L) <sup>2,3</sup>		----	Quarterly	Grab
Total Dissolved Solids (mg/L) <sup>2,3</sup>		500	Quarterly	Grab
Turbidity (NTU) <sup>2,3</sup>		50	Quarterly	Grab
Zinc (Zn) (µg/L) <sup>2,3</sup>		173.12	Quarterly	Grab
Special Conditions	See attached sheet, which contains special conditions that constitute part of this certification.		---	---

1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 see page 10.

To comply with the monitoring requirements specified above, samples shall be taken at the sampling point for discharge serial number 001.

All flow measurements shall achieve accuracy within the range of plus or minus ( $\pm$ ) 10%.

$\alpha$  Waste Load Allocation (WLA) was performed in order to develop the water quality based effluent limitations.

$\lambda$  See Special Conditions 6 and 7.

$\phi$  The permittee shall implement a monthly monitoring program using the analytical method approved by EPA with the lowest possible detection level, in accordance with Rule 1306.2 (C) of the PRWQSR, as amended, for one (1) year period, after which they will be conducted annually. The monitoring program shall commence not later than thirty (30) days after the EQB's written approval of the Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP). The QAPP must be submitted for evaluation and approval of EQB not later than thirty (30) days after the EDP. The results of the monitoring program shall be submitted to EQB and EPA-Region 2 no later than sixty (60) days of completion of the one year monitoring program. Based on the evaluation of the results obtained, EQB will determine if an effluent limitation is necessary for this parameter. In such case, the WQC will be reopened to include the applicable effluent limitation.

**TABLE A-2 AMBIENT MONITORING REQUIREMENTS  
WASTE LOAD ALLOCATION**

**NPDES NO.  
PR0022756**

The EQB has performed a WLA pursuant to Rule 1310 of the PRWQSR. During the period beginning on EDP + 60 days and lasting through one (1) year, after which the monitoring shall be conducted annually, the permittee shall perform ambient monitoring at the immediate vicinity<sup>1</sup> of the discharge station and at the background<sup>2</sup> monitoring station as specified below. Within thirty (30) days of completion of the one year monitoring period, the permittee shall submit a report to EQB and EPA containing the ambient monitoring results obtained as well as the monthly monitoring results obtained during the same time period at the sampling point for discharge 001 for the below parameters. Based on the evaluation of the results obtained, EQB shall determine if the effluent limitations established shall remain as they are or if it is necessary to re-open the WQC to modify (increase or decrease) the effluent limitation for one (1) or more of the below parameters.

Receiving Water Name and Classification: Río Canas, SD

<u>Parameters</u>	<u>Monitoring Requirements</u>	
	<u>Measurements</u> <u>Frequency</u>	<u>Sample Type</u>
Hardness (as CaCO <sub>3</sub> ) (mg/L) <sup>3</sup>	Monthly	Grab
Lead (Pb) (µg/L)	Monthly	Grab

Notes:

- 1 The immediate vicinity of the discharge station shall be located forty four (44) meters downstream from discharge 001.
- 2 The background sampling station shall be located five (5) meters upstream from discharge 001.
- 3 Monitoring is only required at the background monitoring station.

## A. SPECIAL CONDITIONS

These special conditions are an integral part of the permit:

1. The flow of discharge 001 shall not exceed the limitation of 3,785.4 m<sup>3</sup>/day (1.000 MGD) as daily maximum. No increase in flow of discharge 001 shall be authorized without a recertification from the Environmental Quality Board (EQB).<sup>1,5</sup>
2. The discharge 001 will consist of filters backwashes and sedimentation tanks drains treated in the Sludge Treatment System (STS) constructed for these purposes.
3. Within thirty (30) days after the Effective Date of the NPDES Permit (EDP), the Puerto Rico Aqueduct and Sewer Authority (PRASA) shall submit to the EQB for its evaluation, the engineering report, plans and specifications of the constructed STS.<sup>5</sup>
4. Prior to the construction of any additional treatment system, or the modification of the existing one, the permittee shall obtain the approval from EQB of the engineering report, plans and specifications.<sup>5</sup>
5. The permittee shall install, maintain and operate all water pollution control equipment in such manner as to be in compliance with the applicable Rules and Regulations.<sup>1,3</sup>
6. No toxic substances shall be discharged, in toxic concentrations, other than those allowed as specified in the NPDES permit. Those toxic substances included in the permit renewal application, but not regulated by the NPDES permit, shall not exceed the concentrations specified in the applicable regulatory limitations.<sup>2,3</sup>
7. The waters of Puerto Rico shall not contain any substance attributable to discharge 001, at such concentration which, either alone or as result of synergistic effects with other substances, is toxic or produces undesirable physiological responses in human, fish or other fauna or flora.<sup>2</sup>
8. The discharge 001 shall not cause the presence of oil sheen in the receiving water body.<sup>2</sup>
9. All sample collection, preservation, and analysis shall be carried out in accordance with the Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations (40 CFR), Part 136. A licensed chemist authorized to practice the profession in Puerto Rico shall certify all chemical analyses. All bacteriological tests shall be certified by a microbiologist or licensed medical technologist authorized to practice the profession in Puerto Rico.<sup>1,3</sup>
10. The flow-measuring device for the discharge 001, shall be periodically calibrated and properly maintained. Calibration and maintenance records must be kept in compliance with the applicable Rules and Regulations.<sup>3,5</sup>



11. The sampling point for discharge 001 shall be located immediately after the primary flow-measuring device of the effluent of the treatment system.<sup>3,5</sup>
12. The sampling point for discharge 001 shall be labeled with an 18 inches per 12 inches (minimum dimensions) sign that reads as follow:

“Punto de Muestreo para la Descarga 001”

13. All water or wastewaters treatment facilities, whether publicly or privately owned, must be operated by a person licensed by the Potable Water and Wastewaters Treatment Plants Operators Examining Board of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.<sup>3</sup>
14. The permittee shall conduct quarterly acute toxicity tests, for a period of one (1) year, of its wastewater discharge through outfall serial number 001 in accordance with the following:
  - a. The toxicity tests shall be conducted in accordance with the EPA publication, EPA-821-R-02-012 Methods for *Measuring the Acute Toxicity of Effluents and Receiving Waters to Freshwater and Marine Organisms* (Fifth Edition), October 2002, or the most recent edition of this publication, if such edition is available.
  - b. The tests shall provide a measure of the acute toxicity as determined by the wastewater concentration, which cause 50 percent mortality of the organisms over a 48 hour period. Test results shall be expressed in terms of *Lethal Concentration* (LC) and reported as 48 hour LC50.
  - c. The test species should be the *Fathead Minnow* (*Pimephales promelas*) and *Cladocera* (*Daphnia magna*). The tests should be static renewal type.
  - d. A procedure report shall be submitted to both agencies, EQB and EPA, ninety (90) days after the effective date of the NPDES permit (EDP). The following information shall be included in the procedure report:
    1. An identification of the organizations responsible for conducting the test and the species to be tested.
    2. A detailed description of the methodology to be utilized in the conduct of the tests, including equipment, sample collection, dilution water and source of test organisms.
    3. A schematic diagram which depicts the effluent sampling location. The diagram shall indicate the location of effluent sampling in relation to wastewaters treatment facility and discharge monitoring point.
  - e. The tests shall be conducted quarterly for a period of one (1) year and shall commence not later than one hundred eighty (180) days after EDP. The results shall

be submitted to EPA Region II and EQB within sixty (60) days of completion of each test. Based on a review of the test results, EPA or the EQB may require additional toxicity tests, including chronic toxicity analyses. In addition to submitting the procedures report and test results to the addresses listed in Part I.B. of this permit, results shall be submitted to:

MUNICIPAL WATER PROGRAM BRANCH, CHIEF  
CARIBBEAN ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY, REGION II  
CITY VIEW PLAZA II, #48 RD, 165, KM 1.2  
GUAYNABO, PUERTO RICO 00968-8069

f. Reopener Clause for Toxicity Testing Requirements

Based on a review of the test results, the Regional Administrator of EPA or the EQB can require additional toxicity tests, including chronic tests and toxicity/treatability studies, and may impose toxicity limitations. This permit may be reopened by EPA to include such requirements as enforceable permit conditions.

15. The solid wastes (sludge, screenings and grit), generated due to the operation of the STS, shall be:
- a. Disposed in compliance with the applicable requirements established in the 40 CFR, Part 257. A semiannual report shall be submitted to EQB and EPA notifying the method or methods used to dispose the solid waste generated in the facility. Also, copy of the approval or permit applicable to the disposal method used shall be submitted, if any.
  - b. Transported adequately in such way that access is not gained to any water body or soil. In the event of a spill of solid waste on land or into a water body, the permittee shall notify the Point Sources Permits Divisions of EQB's Water Quality Area in the following manners:
    1. By telephone communication within a term no longer than twenty-four (24) hour after the spill (787-767-8073).
    2. By letter, within a term no longer than five (5) days after the spill.

These notifications shall include the following information:

- a. spill material,
- b. spill volume,



- c. measures taken to prevent the spill material to gain access to any water body.

This special condition does not relieve the permittee from its responsibility to obtain the corresponding permits from the EQB's Solid Waste Program and other state and federal agencies, if any.<sup>5</sup>

16. A log book must be kept for the material removed from the STS detailing the following items:
  - a. removed material, date and source of it;
  - b. approximate volume and weight;
  - c. method by which it is removed and transported;
  - d. final disposal and location;
  - e. person that performs the service.

A copy of the Non-Hazardous Solid Waste Collection and Transportation Services Permit issued by the authorized official from EQB must be attached to the log book.<sup>3</sup>

17. The EQB has performed a Waste Load Allocation (WLA) pursuant to Rule 1310 of the PRWQSR, as amended. The WLA will not be transferable and do not convey any property rights of any sort or any exclusive privileges, nor does it authorize any injury to persons or property or invasion of other private rights, or any infringement of Federal or State Laws or Regulations.<sup>4</sup>

1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 see next page