NPDES PERMIT NO. NM0023396
FACT SHEET

FOR THE DRAFT NATIONAL POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM (NPDES) PERMIT TO DISCHARGE TO WATERS OF THE UNITED STATES

APPLICANT:	Ramah Water and Sanitation District Post Office Box 416 Ramah, NM 87321
ISSUING OFFICE:	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 6 1445 Ross Avenue Dallas, Texas 75202-2733
PREPARED BY:	Isaac Chen Environmental Engineer NPDES Permits & TMDL Branch (6WQ-PP) Water Quality Protection Division Voice: 214-665-7364 Fax: 214-665-2191 Email: chen.isaac@epa.gov
PERMIT ACTION:	Proposed reissuance of the current permit issued December 18, 2007, with an effective date of February 1, 2008, and an expiration date of January 31, 2013.
DATE PREPARED:	May 14, 2015

40 CFR CITATIONS: Unless otherwise stated, citations to 40 CFR refer to promulgated regulations listed at Title 40, Code of Federal Regulations, revised as of April 1, 2015.

CERTIFICATION: The permit is in the process of certification by the State agency following regulations promulgated at 40 CFR 124.53. A draft permit and draft public notice will be sent to the District Engineer, Corps of Engineers; to the Regional Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; and to the National Marine Fisheries Service prior to the publication of that notice.

FINAL DETERMINATION: The public notice describes the procedures for the formulation of final determinations.

I. PROPOSED CHANGES FROM PREVIOUS PERMIT

It is proposed that the current permit be reissued for a 5-year term.

There are changes from the current permit issued December 18, 2007, with an effective date of February 1, 2008, and an expiration date of January 31, 2013:

a. Changed pH limit range from 6.0 – 9.0 to 6.6 – 9.0;
b. Changed E. coli effluent limitations from daily maximum/30-Day average of 548/2507 cfu/100 ml to 206/940 cfu/100 ml;
c. Changed the whole effluent toxicity monitoring from 24-hr acute testing to 7-day chronic testing;
d. Add percent (%) removal limitations for BOD and TSS; and
e. Add total dissolved solids (TDS) limitation.

The specific effluent limitations and/or conditions will be found in the draft permit.

II. APPLICANT ACTIVITY

Under the Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) Code 4952, the applicant currently operates a municipal wastewater treatment plant with a 0.058 MGD design flow capacity. As described in the application, the facility uses chlorine prior to discharge. The facility is also designed for the removal of nitrogen.

III. SEWAGE SLUDGE PRACTICES

The sludge produced at the treatment plant is discharge to drying beds.

IV. INDUSTRIAL WASTEWATER CONTRIBUTIONS

The applicant facility does not receive industrial wastewater.

V. DISCHARGE LOCATION

As described in the application, the plant is located in McKinley County, New Mexico. Discharge is to Togeye ditch thence to Cebolla Creek in WQS segment 20.6.4.98 NMAC. Designated uses include marginal warmwater aquatic life, wildlife habitat, primary contact, and livestock watering. The discharge is located on that water at the following coordinates:

Latitude 35° 07' 45" N, Longitude 108° 30' 07" W

VI. STREAM STANDARDS

The effluent from the treatment plant is discharged into unclassified waters Togeye Drain, thence

to Cebolla Creek, thence to the Rio Pescado, thence to the Zuni River, thence to the Little Colorado River of the Colorado River Basin. The general and specific stream standards are provided in "New Mexico State Standards for Interstate and Intrastate Surface Waters," (20.6.4 NMAC, as amended through June 5, 2013).

The lower reach of Cebolla Creek, the entire Rio Pescado, and the entire Zuni River within the New Mexico state boundaries are on Zuni Indian reservation land. The Pueblo of Zuni has not adopted water quality standards at this time. They will receive a copy of the draft permit and the fact sheet and the Agency will solicit their comments.

VII. DISCHARGE DESCRIPTION

A quantitative description of the discharges described in the EPA Permit Application Form 2A dated September 3, 2014, and effluent data reported in the 2013 Discharge Monitoring Reports (DMR) are presented below:

	Application 2A	
	Avg.	Max
Parameter	(mg/l unless noted)	
Flow, million gallons/day (MGD)	0.023	0.037
pH, minimum, standard units (su)	NA	7.3
pH, maximum, standard units (su)	NA	7.7
Biochemical Oxygen Demand, 5-day (BOD_5)	11.5	18
Fecal Coliform (FCB) (colonies/100 ml)	1412	1986
Total Suspended Solids (TSS)	23	50
Total Residual Chlorine (TRC)	NA	NA
Temperature (°C) (winter)	14.7	14.9
Temperature (°C) (summer)	18.7	21.2

Parameter	January 2013		February 2013	
	30-day	7-Day	30-Day	7-Day
Flow, million gallons/day (MGD)	0.0203	0.0247	0.0226	0.025
pH, minimum, standard units (su) (Daily)	NA	7.2	NA	7.3
pH, maximum, standard units (su)	NA	7.3	NA	7.4
Biochemical Oxygen Demand, 5-day (mg/l)	8	8	8.1	8.1
Total Suspended Solids (mg/l)	17	17	17	17
Total Residual Chlorine (µg/l) (Daily Max)	NA	10	NA	10
E. Coli (colonies/100 ml) (Daily Max)	NA	1046.2*	NA	60.1
Total Dissolved Solids, Net Increase (mg/l)	158	808	193	913

The permittee has failed to submit DMRs since March 2013. EPA Enforcement Division is working on issuance of an Administrative Order to obtain effluent data and may take other enforcement actions. E. coli reported in January 2013 exceeded the effluent daily maximum limitation.

VIII. TENTATIVE DETERMINATION

On the basis of preliminary staff review and after consultation with the State of New Mexico, the Environmental Protection Agency has made a tentative determination to reissue a permit for the discharge described in the application.

IX. DRAFT PERMIT RATIONALE

The following section sets forth the principal facts and the significant factual, legal, methodological, and policy questions considered in preparing the draft permit. Also set forth are any calculations or other necessary explanations of the derivation of specific effluent limitations and conditions, including a citation to the applicable effluent limitation guideline or performance standard provisions as required under 40 CFR 122.44 and reasons why they are applicable or an explanation of how the alternate effluent limitations were developed.

A. REASON FOR PERMIT REISSUANCE (EXPIRING PERMIT)

The current permit was issued December 18, 2007, with an effective date of February 1, 2008, and an expiration date of January 31, 2013. The permit renewal application was dated September 3, 2014. It is proposed that the current permit be reissued for a 5-year term following regulations promulgated at 40 CFR 122.46(a).

B. TECHNOLOGY-BASED VERSUS WATER QUALITY STANDARDS-BASED EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS AND CONDITIONS

Following regulations promulgated at 40 CFR 122.44(l)(2)(ii), the draft permit limits are based on either technology-based effluent limits pursuant to 40 CFR 122.44(a), on State water quality standards and requirements pursuant to 40 CFR 122.44(d), or on the results of an established and EPA approved Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL), whichever are more stringent.

C. TECHNOLOGY-BASED EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS/CONDITIONS

1. GENERAL COMMENTS

Regulations promulgated at 40 CFR 122.44 (a) require technology-based effluent limitations to be placed in NPDES permits based on effluent limitations guidelines where applicable, on BPJ (best professional judgment) in the absence of guidelines, or on a combination of the two. The BPJ-based effluent limitations are equivalent to secondary treatment for domestic sewage on regulations found at 40 CFR 133.102.

2. EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS

	Lbs/day	Lbs/day	Other Units (specify)	
Parameter	30-day Avg.	7-Day Avg.	30-day Avg.	7-Day Avg.
Flow	N/A	N/A	Report (MGD)	Report (MGD)
BOD	14.5	21.7	30 mg/l	45 mg/l
TSS	14.5	21.7	30 mg/l	45 mg/l
pH	N/A	N/A	6.0-9.0 SU	

Total 30-day average loadings for BOD and TSS are based on the design flow of 0.058 MGD.

30 mg/l * 8.34 lb/gal * 0.058 MGD = 14.5 lbs/day

45 mg/l * 8.34 lb/gal * 0.058 MGD = 21.7 lbs/day

The draft permit establishes technology-based effluent limitations for BOD and TSS based on those established in the effluent limitations guidelines applicable to the process wastewater. The draft permit also add BOD and TSS percent removal limitations, respectively, in accordance with the Effluent Limitation Guidelines.

3. MONITORING FREQUENCIES FOR LIMITED PARAMETERS

Regulations require permits to establish monitoring requirements to yield data representative of the monitored activity 40 CFR 122.48(b) and to assure compliance with permit limitations contained in 40 CFR 122.44(i) (1). EPA has established the following monitoring frequency for a similar small publicly owned treatment works (POTWs).

PARAMETERS	MONITORING REQUIREMENTS	
	FREQUENCY OF SAMPLE	REPORTING TYPE
Flow	Once/Day	Instantaneous
BOD_5-day	Once/Month	Grab
TSS	Once/Month	Grab
BOD % Removal	Once/Month	Calculation
TSS % Removal	Once/Month	Calculation

4. SLUDGE DISPOSAL

The permittee shall use only those sewage sludge disposal or reuse practices that comply with the federal regulations established in 40 CFR Part 503 "Standards for the Use or Disposal of Sewage Sludge." The specific requirements in the permit apply as a result of the design flow of the facility, the type of waste discharge to the collection system, and the sewage sludge disposal or reuse practice utilized by the treatment works. Sludge testing information, that is required of handling or disposing of the sludge, will be retained on site for five years, as required in the record keeping requirements section of

Part IV, in accordance with NPDES Permit No. NM0023396.

D. WATER QUALITY-BASED EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS/CONDITIONS

1. GENERAL COMMENTS

Effluent limitations and/or conditions established in the draft permit are in compliance with State water quality standards and the applicable water quality management plan. The NPDES permit contains technology-based effluent limitations reflecting the best controls available. Where these technology-based permit limits do not protect water quality or the designated uses, additional water quality-based effluent limitations and/or conditions are included in the NPDES permits. State narrative and numerical water quality standards are used in conjunction with EPA criteria and other available toxicity information to determine the adequacy of technology-based permit limits and the need for additional water quality-based controls.

2. STATE WATER QUALITY NUMERICAL STANDARDS

a. General Comments

As stated above, the designated uses of the receiving water(s) are marginal warmwater, aquatic life, wildlife habitat, primary contact, and livestock watering.

b. Revised Water Quality Standards

The NM WQCC adopted new WQS for the State of New Mexico. The revised WQS as amended through June 5, 2013 are available on the NMED's website at: *:* http://www.nmenv.state.nm.us/swqb/Standards/. The WQCC established the revised WQS in accordance with, and under authority of, the NM Water Quality Act [Chapter 74, Article 6, NMSA 1978 Annotated].

c. Water Quality Based Limits

1. Total Residual Chlorine (TRC)

Information submitted in the application indicates that chlorine is used for the disinfection of the effluent; therefore chlorine testing will be required. The TRC limit in the proposed permit will be 11 ug/l because the plant discharges to an intermittent water body. Based on the 100% dilution factor, an chronic end of pipe criteria of 11 ug/l is more restrictive than the acute criteria of 19 ug/l. The effluent limitation for TRC is the instantaneous maximum and cannot be averaged for reporting purposes. Because chlorine is used for disinfection on the regular basis, monitoring frequency is set to be 5/week as required for similar size of municipal facilities.

2. Total Dissolved Solids

The Colorado River Salinity Control Standards is a program to maintain the level of salinity in the Colorado River. Adoption of the goals of this program are part of the NM WQS 20.6.4.54 and are in accordance with Section 303 of the CWA. They read in part:

> *For the tributaries of the Colorado River system, the state of New Mexico will cooperate with the Colorado River basin states and the federal government to support and implement the salinity policy and program outlined in the most current "review, water quality standards for salinity, Colorado River system" or equivalent report by the Colorado River salinity control forum.*

The incremental increase in total dissolved solids (TDS) shall be 400 mg/l or less. This is measured between the flow weighted average salinity of the intake (drinking) water and the discharge.

After a review of the application, the low flow rate and other relevant information, EPA believes that the annual monitoring of TDS of the intake water supply and quarterly monitoring of the wastewater treatment plant effluent shall be sufficient to protect and measure the discharge's impact on the Colorado River System.

The facility shall, using grab samples and reporting quarterly, sample and report the difference between the TDS of both the intake water supply and the plant discharge. For purposes of reporting, the difference between the two shall be reported on the DMR form and reported quarterly. For the purpose of reporting, the difference shall be recorded as the concentration of the TDS from the discharge minus the concentration of the intake water supply.

The permit will contain standard reopener language that would allow the permit to be reopened and limits placed in it if data indicates that the increase in salinity loading represents an impairment on the Colorado River.

3. Bacteria

Current NM WQS have replaced fecal bacteria with *E. coli.* State WQS for *E. coli* bacteria, listed in 20.6.4.98 NMAC require the monthly geometric mean to be 206 colony forming units (cfu)/100 ml or less; single sample 940 cfu/100 ml or less. EPA has included these limitations and monitoring requirements for E. coli in the proposed permit. New effluent limitations are more stringent than the previous limitations because the receiving water is designated as intermittent stream, instead of ephemeral stream.

4. Other Conditions

Floatables are prohibited from discharge through this outfall.

The pH range of 6.6-9.0 standard units specified by 20.6.4.900.H(6) shall be the effluent limitation for this facility.

5. Water Quality Based Effluent Limits

	Lbs/day	Lbs/day	Other Units (mg/l)		
Parameter	30-day Avg.	7-Day Avg.	30-day Avg.	7-Day Avg.	Daily Max
E. coli[*1]	N/A	N/A	206	N/A	940
TRC[*2]	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	11 ug/l
TDS[*3]	Report	N/A	400 mg/l	N/A	Report

Footnotes
*1. Colony forming units (cfu) per 100 ml.
*2. Total Residual Chlorine
*3. 400 mg/l incremental increase for Total Dissolved Solids

6. Schedule of Compliance

No compliance schedules are proposed.

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7. Monitoring Frequency for Limited Parameters

PARAMETERS	MONITORING REQUIREMENTS	
	FREQUENCY OF SAMPLE	REPORTING TYPE
E. Coli	Once/Month	Grab
Total Residual Chlorine	Five/Week	Grab[*1]
Total Dissolved Solids	Once/3-Months	Grab
pH	Five/Week	Grab

Footnote:
*1. TRC shall be monitored monthly by "instantaneous grab." Regulations at 40 CFR 136 define "instantaneous grab" as analyzed within 15 minutes of collection.

The monitoring frequencies as proposed above are based on best professional judgment (BPJ) as recommended in the Implementation Guidelines (NMIP, March 15, 2012).

3. REASONABLE POTENTIAL

All POTW's are required to fill out appropriate sections of the Form 2A, to apply for an NPDES permit or reissuance of an NPDES permit. The new form is applicable not only to Publicly Owned Treatment Works (POTW's) and to facilities that are similar to POTW's, but which do not meet the regulatory definition of "publicly owned treatment works" (like private domestics, or similar facilities on Federal property). The forms were designed and promulgated to "make it easier for permit applicants to provide the necessary information with their applications and minimize the need for additional

follow-up requests from permitting authorities," per the summary statement in the preamble to the Rule. These forms became effective December 1, 1999, after publication of the final rule on August 4, 1999, Volume 64, Number 149, pages 42433 through 42527 of the FRL.

The amount of information required for minor facilities was limited to specific sections of these forms, because they are unlikely to discharge toxic pollutants in amounts that would impact state water quality standards. Supporting information for this decision was published as "Evaluation of the Presence of Priority Pollutants in the Discharges of Minor POTW's," June 1996, and was sent to all state NPDES coordinators by EPA Headquarters. In this study, EPA collected and evaluated data on the types and quantities of toxic pollutants discharged by minor POTW's of varying sizes from less than 0.1 MGD to just under 1 MGD. The Study consisted of a query of the EPA Permit Compliance System (PCS) database from 1990 to present, an evaluation of minor POTW data provided by the State agencies, and on-site monitoring for selected toxics at 86 minor facilities across the nation. Due to the information supplied in the application, the Agency has determined that no reasonable potential exists for this discharge to violate applicable NM WQS, beyond pH, TRC and E. coli.

4. AQUATIC TOXICITY TESTING

a. General Comments

The State has established narrative criteria which, in part, state that

"...surface waters of the state shall be free of toxic pollutants from other than natural causes in amounts, concentrations or combinations that affect the propagation of fish or that are toxic to humans, livestock or other animals, fish or other aquatic organisms, wildlife using aquatic environments for habitation or aquatic organisms for food, or that will or can reasonably be expected to bioaccumulate in tissues of fish, shellfish and other aquatic organisms to levels that will impair the health of aquatic organisms...." (NM WQS Section 20.6.4.13.F(1))

b. Permit Action

Whole effluent biomonitoring is the most direct measure of potential toxicity that incorporates both the effects of synergism of effluent components and receiving stream water quality characteristics. Biomonitoring of the effluent is, therefore, required as a condition of this permit to assess potential toxicity. The receiving stream is intermittent and the critical dilution is determined to be 100%. Whole effluent toxicity (WET) testing requirements are established based on the New Mexico Implementation Guidance (March 15, 2012). The permittee is required to conduct an one-time effluent characterization single chronic (7-day) biomonitoring test, using the species Ceriodaphnia dubia and

Pimephales promelas.

c. Testing and Reporting Requirements

The sample for the WET test for Outfall 001 shall be taken as soon as possible, and no later than one year from the effective date of the permit. The permittee shall submit the results of any toxicity testing performed in accordance with the Part II of the Permit.

Results of all dilutions as well as the associated chemical monitoring of pH, temperature, hardness, dissolved oxygen, conductivity, and alkalinity shall be documented in a full report according to the appropriate test method publication. The full reports required by each test section need not be submitted unless requested. However, the full report is to be retained following the provisions of [40 CFR Part 122.41 (j) (2)]. The permit requires the submission of the toxicity testing information to be included on the DMR.

This permit may be reopened to require effluent limits, additional testing, and/or other appropriate actions to address toxicity if biomonitoring data show actual or potential ambient toxicity to be the result of the permittees discharge to the receiving stream or water body. Modification or revocation of the permit is subject to the provisions of 40 CFR 124.5. Accelerated or intensified toxicity testing may be required in accordance with Section 308 of the Clean Water Act.

d. Dilution Series

A minimum of five effluent dilutions in addition to an appropriate control (0%) are to be used in the toxicity tests. These additional effluent concentrations are 32%, 42%, 56%, 75%, 100%. The low-flow effluent concentration (critical dilution) is defined as 100% effluent.

X. IMPAIRED WATER - 303(d) LIST AND TMDL

Cebolla Creek (Zuni Pueblo to Ramah Reservoir), is listed on the "2014-2016 State of New Mexico Integrated Clean Water Act Section 303 (d) / 305 (b) Report." The 303(d) list indicates that livestock watering, wildlife habitat, marginal warmwater aquatic life, and primary contact have not been assessed. If future stream water quality assessments identify any impairment and when a TMDL is later established for the receiving stream, the permit may be reopened, and new limitations based on the TMDL may be incorporated into the permit.

XI. ANTIDEGRADATION

The NMAC, Section 20.6.4.8 "Antidegradation Policy and Implementation Plan" sets forth the requirements to protect designated uses through implementation of the State water quality standards. The limitations and monitoring requirements set forth in the proposed permit are developed from the State water quality standards and are protective of those designated uses.

Furthermore, the policy sets forth the intent to protect the existing quality of those waters, whose quality exceeds their designated use. The permit requirements are protective of the assimilative capacity of the receiving waters, which is protective of the designated uses of that water.

XII. ANTIBACKSLIDING

The proposed permit is consistent with the requirements to meet Antibacksliding provisions of the Clean Water Act, Section 402(o) and 40 CFR 122.44(l)(2)(i)(B), which state in part that interim or final effluent limitations must be as stringent as those in the previous permit, unless information is available which was not available at the time of permit issuance.

XIII. PERMIT REOPENER

The permit may be reopened and modified during the life of the permit if relevant portions of the State WQS are revised or remanded. In addition, the permit may be reopened and modified during the life of the permit if relevant procedures implementing the Water Quality Standards are either revised or promulgated by the State. This permit may be reopened to establish effluent limitations for the parameter(s) to be consistent with that approved State standards in accordance with 40 CFR 122.44(d). Modification of the permit is subject to the provisions of 40 CFR 124.5.

XIV. ENDANGERED SPECIES

According to the most recent county listing available at US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), http://ecos.fws.gov/ipac/wizard/trustResourceList!prepare.action, four species in McKinley County and are listed as Endangered or Threatened. They are the Mexican spotted owl, the Southwestern willow flycatcher, the yellow-billed cuckoo, and Zuni bluehead sucker. This facility is close to Cibola County and includes the Pecos sunflower and Zuni fleabane which are not listed in McKinley County. Based on the following discussion, EPA has determined that the reissuance of this permit will have ***no effect*** on these federally listed threatened or endangered species.

Mexican spotted owl and southwestern willow flycatcher: Research of available material finds that the primary cause for the population decreases leading to threatened or endangered status of the avian species, the Mexican spotted owl and Southwestern willow flycatcher, is destruction of habitat. Issuance of this permit is found to have no impact on the habitat of the listed species, since no construction is authorized by this permitting action.

No pollutants are identified by the permittee-submitted application at levels which might affect species habitat or prey species. Catastrophic fires and elimination of riparian habitat also were identified as threats to species habitat, particularly that of the Mexican spotted owl and the southwestern willow flycatcher. The National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) program regulates discharge of pollutants and does not regulate forest management practices and agricultural practices, which contribute to catastrophic fires and elimination of riparian habitat, and thus, species habitat. Reissuance of this permit is found to have no impact

on the habitats of these species.

Yellow-billed cuckoo: Yellow-billed Cuckoos use wooded habitat with dense cover and water nearby, including woodlands with low, scrubby, vegetation, overgrown orchards, abandoned farmland, and dense thickets along streams and marshes. In the Midwest, look for cuckoos in shrublands of mixed willow and dogwood, and in dense stands of small trees such as American elm. In the Southwest, Yellow-Billed Cuckoos are rare breeders in riparian woodlands of willows, cottonwoods and dense stands of mesquite to breed. Yellow-billed Cuckoo populations declined by 1.6 percent per year between 1966 and 2010, resulting in a cumulative decline of 51 percent, according to the North American Breeding Bird Survey. In the West, much of the Yellow-Billed Cuckoo's riparian habitat has been converted to farmland and housing, leading to significant population declines and the possible extirpation of cuckoos from British Columbia, Washington, Oregon, and Nevada. As long-distance, nocturnal migrants, Yellow-Billed Cuckoos are vulnerable to collisions with tall buildings, cell towers, radio antennas, wind turbines, and other structures. The reissuance of the permit does not authorize construction activities which may result in destruction of habitat or cause collision of species with any building structures.

Zuni bluehead sucker: The Zuni bluehead sucker is a small, slender fish with a bluish head, silvery tan to dark green back, and yellowish to silvery white sides and abdomen. The fish grows between 3.5 to 8 inches. Males exhibit a bright red band running laterally along each side during the spawning season. The fish uses stream reaches with clean, perennial water flowing over hard substrate, such as bedrock. It feeds primarily on algae it scrapes from rocks, rubble, and gravel on the streambed. It appears to avoid silt-laden habitat, such as beaver ponds, which represent poor or marginal habitat. The current range of the Zuni bluehead sucker has been reduced to less than 10 percent of its historic distribution. The fish is now restricted to three semi-isolated populations (totaling just 3 stream miles) in the upper Rio Nutria drainage in west-central New Mexico, and scattered areas along 27 miles of the Kinlichee (a.k.a. "Kin Li Chee") watershed in Arizona. The fish continues to face a host of threats, including habitat modification and stream siltation caused by logging, livestock grazing, road construction, residential development and reservoirs; reduced or discontinuous stream flow from water withdrawal for irrigation; application of pesticides; and competition with and predation by exotic fishes and crayfish. Reissuance of the permit will not result in any adverse impact on the species and EPA determines that this permitting action has no effect on the species.

Zuni fleabane: The Zuni fleabane is found on barren detrital clay hillsides with soils derived form shales of the Chinle or Baca formations (often seleniferous); most often on north or east-facing slopes in open pinyon-juniper woodlands at 7,300-8,000 ft. It never occurs on southern slopes. The primary threat to Zuni fleabane is disturbance due to habitat destruction and heavy equipment resulting in surface disturbances. The discharge from this facility will not have any impact on this species.

Pecos sunflower: Threats to the Pecos sunflower include drying of wetlands from groundwater depletion, alteration of wetlands (e.g. wetland fills, draining, impoundment construction), competition from non-native plant species, excessive livestock grazing, mowing, and highway

maintenance. Pecos sunflower is totally dependent on the persistence of its wetland habitat, for even large populations will disappear if the wetland dries out. Reissuance of this permit will have no effect on the Pecos sunflower or its habitat.

XV. ADMINISTRATIVE RECORD

The following information was used to develop the proposed permit:

A. PERMIT(S)

NPDES Permit No. NM0023396 issued December 18, 2007, with an effective date of February 1, 2008, and an expiration date of January 31, 2013.

B. APPLICATION(S)

EPA Application Forms 1 and 2A dated September 3, 2014.

C. STATE WATER QUALITY REFERENCES

The general and specific stream standards are provided in "State of New Mexico Standards for Interstate and Intrastate Surface Water," (20.6.4NMAC, as amended through June 5, 2013).

Procedures for Implementing National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permits In New Mexico – NMIP, March 15, 2012.