

**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION II
CARIBBEAN ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DIVISION
CITY VIEW PLAZA II, SUITE 7000
GUAYNABO, PUERTO RICO 00968-8069**

Date: May 25, 2020

NOTICE: PREPARATION OF DRAFT NPDES PERMITS

Notice is hereby given that the following parties have applied to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) under the provisions of the Clean Water Act, 33 U.S.C. §1251 *et seq.* (the Act), for National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits for the discharge of pollutants into waters of the United States:

| Applicant | NPDES Number | Facility Name | Flow (MGD)* | Receiving Water / Classification |
|--|---------------------|----------------------|--------------------|---|
| Puerto Rico Aqueduct and Sewer Authority | PR0023752 | Carolina RWWTP | 90 | Atlantic Ocean / Class SB |

* Million gallons per day (MGD)

This notice is being given to inform the public that EPA has prepared a draft NPDES permit for the above referenced facility. This draft permit contains effluent limitations, standards, prohibitions and other conditions necessary to carry out the provisions of the Act. If, after the conclusion of the proceeding summarized below, the Regional Administrator of Region 2 of EPA makes a final decision to issue the permit, the applicant will be required to comply with all the conditions in the permit.

The draft permit prepared by EPA is based on the respective administrative record. Among other documents, the administrative record required by 40 CFR 124.9, consists of the application, draft NPDES Permit, statement of basis or Fact Sheet describing the basis for the conditions in the draft permit, Decision Document and an Environmental Justice Document.. All data submitted by the applicant is available as part of the administrative record.

The administrative record is on file available by appointment at the EPA Region 2 Caribbean Environmental Protection Division office in City View Plaza II, Suite 7000, #48 RD. 165 Km, 1.2 Guaynabo, Puerto Rico 00968-8069 and may be inspected and photocopied at a cost of \$0.15 per page at any time between 8:30 A.M. and 4:00 P.M., Monday through Friday. A copy of the draft permits and fact sheets may be obtained by writing to the above address or by calling (787) 977-5870. The draft permit and fact sheet are also available on the EPA website at the following web address:

<https://www.epa.gov/npdes-permits/puerto-rico-npdes-permits>

All persons may provide comments during the public comment period, no later than 30 days from the date of this notice, to the Director, Caribbean Environmental Protection Division Office City View Plaza

II, Suite 7000, #48 RD. 165 Km, 1.2 Guaynabo, Puerto Rico 00968-8069 and email laguer.yasmin@epa.gov. If EPA finds that comments timely submitted appear to raise substantial new questions, EPA may reopen the public comment period for that permit.

Any interested persons may request a public hearing on these documents. Any request for a public hearing under 40 C.F.R. §124.11 on EPA's draft permits shall be in writing, state the nature of the issues proposed to be raised in the hearing, and be submitted to the Director, Caribbean Environmental Protection Division Office City View Plaza II, Suite 7000, #48 RD. 165 Km, 1.2 Guaynabo, Puerto Rico 00968-8069, by no later than 30 days from the date of this notice. It is highly recommended to email your petition to laguer.yasmin@epa.gov. EPA's decision on the question of whether to hold a public hearing on the draft NPDES permits, the administration of any hearing and the rights and obligations of participants are governed by regulations at 40 C.F.R. §124.12. If EPA holds a public hearing, the public comment period in this notice shall automatically be extended to the close of the public hearing.

If EPA does not hold a public hearing or reopen the comment period, EPA shall consider the issuance of a final permit to the applicant as soon as possible after the date indicated above for the submission of comments. All timely comments, submitted by interested persons in response to this notice, and statements and other evidence properly submitted at any public hearing held by EPA shall be considered in making the final decision with respect to these permit applications. All comments shall be answered as provided in 40 C.F.R. §124.17.

The applicant and any other person who submits timely written comments or requests notice of final permit decision shall receive notice of EPA's final decision. Within 30 days of service of such notice, any interested person who has submitted timely written comments may file a notice of appeal and petition for review to the Environmental Appeals Board to review any condition of the permit decision. Any person who failed to file comments or failed to participate in the public hearing on the draft permit may petition for review only to the extent of the changes from the draft to the final permit decision. Any such request must meet the requirements of 40 CFR §124.19.

Carmen R. Guerrero-Pérez, Director
Caribbean Environmental Protection Division
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency