

NPDES authorization to discharge to waters of the United States, Permit No. NM0028762

The applicant's mailing address is:

City of Aztec - Water Treatment Plant
201 West Chaco
Aztec, New Mexico 87410

The permittee is authorized to discharge from a facility located at New Mexico Highway 173 in the City of Aztec in San Juan County, New Mexico. The discharge is located at Latitude 36° 50' 0" North, Longitude 107° 58' 45" West. The discharge from the facility is to Lower Animas Ditch, an irrigation facility with return flows at various locations, including diversions to Hampton Arroyo and Williams Arroyo, subject to Section 20.6.4.98 New Mexico Administrative Code (NMAC) (if non-perennial) and Section 20.6.4.99 NMAC (if perennial); then Animas River, from Estes Arroyo upstream to the Southern Ute Indian Tribal boundary, a classified segment described in Section 20.6.4.404 NMAC and from the confluence with the San Juan River upstream to Estes Arroyo, a classified segment described in Section 20.6.4.403 NMAC; then San Juan River, a classified segment described from the Navajo Nation Boundary at Hogback to Animas River in Section 20.6.4.401 NMAC in the San Juan River Basin.

The designated uses of all non-perennial surface waters of the state, except those ephemeral waters included under Section 20.6.4.97 NMAC or classified in Sections 20.6.4.101-899 NMAC are livestock watering, wildlife habitat, marginal warmwater aquatic life and primary contact. The designated uses in all perennial surface waters of the state except those classified in Sections 20.6.4.101-899 NMAC are warmwater aquatic life, livestock watering, wildlife habitat and primary contact. The designated uses of Animas River, in both Section 20.6.4.403 and 404 NMAC, are coolwater aquatic life, irrigation, livestock watering, wildlife habitat, public water supply, industrial water supply and primary contact.

Under the SIC Code 4941, the applicant operates a Water Treatment plant. This permitting action is for the discharge of backwash and flushing water originating from the potable water treatment plant. This is a renewal of a permit previously issued July 28, 2016, with an effective date of September 1, 2016, and an expiration date of August 31, 2021.

A Statement of Basis is available.

Changes from the previous permit are:

1. Discharges from the facility may enter Lower Animas Ditch / Hampton Arroyo and/or Williams Arroyo in Water body Segment 20.6.4.98 / 99, with a critical low flow of 0 cfs. Discharges may also enter Water body Segment 20.6.4.404 or Segment 20.6.403 in the San Juan River Basin. Previous permit identified the receiving water as a classified perennial stream, with a critical low flow (4Q3) for the Animas River, above Estes Arroyo as 184 cfs.
2. Updated Minimum Quantification Level language in Part II of the draft permit.
3. Biomonitoring test is changed from 48-hour Acute test to 7-day Chronic test based on updated critical dilution and updated receiving stream information submitted.
4. TRC limit is changed from 0.019 mg/L to 0.011 mg/L based on updated critical dilution.
5. Quarterly monitoring and reporting requirements for Cyanide total recoverable have been established in the draft permit.
6. Monitoring and reporting requirements for Delta-BHC study have been established in the draft permit based on delta-BHC effluent testing data by the permittee.

State Certification

This Notice also serves as Public Notice of the intent of the New Mexico Environment Department, Surface Water Quality Bureau to consider issuing Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 401 Certification. The purpose of such certification is to reasonably ensure that the permitted activities will be conducted in a manner that will comply with applicable New Mexico water quality standards, including the antidegradation policy, and the statewide water quality management plan. The NPDES permit will not be issued until the certification requirements of Section 401 have been met.

If you want to comment on State Certification submit written comments within the 30 day period to:

Susan A. Lucas Kamat
(Acting) Program Manager, Point Source Regulation Section
New Mexico Environment Department
Surface Water Quality Bureau
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