

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

Date: January 19, 2024

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.

The applicant: **Puerto Rico Aqueduct and Sewer Authority**, P.O. Box 7066, Barrio Obrero Station, San Juan, Puerto Rico 00916, has applied for permits for the following facilities:

NPDES Number	Facility Name	Flow (MGD)*	Receiving Water / Classification
PR0022462	Cubuy WTP	0.115	Los Santos Creek, SD
PR0022578	Guayama WTP	0.6	Guamaní River, SD
PR0022705	Orocovis WTP	0.144	Unnamed Creek tributary to Orocovis River, SD
PR0022764	Coamo WTP	0.144	Unnamed creek, tributary to the Coamo River
PR0022781	Ponce Vieja WTP	0.256	Portugués River, SD
PR0025852	Real Anón WTP	0.0432	Anón River, SD
PR0020486	Guánica WWTP	2.05	Bahía de Guánica, Class SB
PR0020753	Patillas WWTP	1.10	Chico River, SD

* Million gallons per day (MGD)

This notice is being given to inform the public that EPA has prepared draft NPDES permits for these facilities. These draft permits contain 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 permits, the applicants will be required to comply with all the conditions in those permits.

The draft permits prepared by EPA are based on the respective administrative records. Among other documents, the administrative record required by 40 CFR 124.9, consists of the application, draft NPDES permit, and statement of basis or fact sheet describing the basis for the conditions in the draft permit. All data submitted by the applicant is available as part of the administrative record.

A copy of the administrative records are on file 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 emailing laguer.yasmin@epa.gov. The draft permit and fact sheet are also available on the EPA website at the following web address: <http://www.epa.gov/region02/water/permits.html>.

Interested persons may submit written comments on the draft permits, to the Director, Caribbean Environmental Protection Division, email mentioned the above. All comments must be submitted by no later than **30 days** from the date of this notice.

All persons may provide comments during the public comment period. If the 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 also recommended to send the written petition via email 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