

AUTHORIZATION TO DISCHARGE TO WATERS OF THE UNITED STATES,  
NPDES PERMIT NO. NM0000108.

The applicant's mailing address is:

El Paso Electric Company- Rio Grande Power Plant  
P.O. Box 982  
El Paso, TX 79960

Based on information provided in the application, the El Paso Electric Company (EPE) operates a natural gas fueled power generation station called the Rio Grande Power Station (RGPS) that is located at 3501 Doniphan Drive, Sunland Park, New Mexico. Power station is categorized under Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) Code(s) 4911. RGPS has two outfalls (001 and 002) that are permitted to discharge cooling tower blowdown and storm water. Outfall 001 is designed to discharge directly into the Rio Grande Segment No. 20.6.4.101 of the Rio Grande Basin. Outfall 002 discharges to an unclassified receiving water named Montoya Drain thence to receiving water named Rio Grande in Segment No. 20.6.4.101 of the Rio Grande Basin.

There are changes from the current permit issued June 28, 2013, with an effective date of August 1, 2013, and an expiration date of July 31, 2018.

1. Add an internal Outfall 109; and
2. Add monitoring and reporting requirements for dissolved boron at Outfalls 001 and 002.

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:

Sarah Holcomb, Program Manager-PSRS  
New Mexico Environment Department  
Surface Water Quality Bureau (N2050)  
P.O. Box 5469  
Santa Fe, NM 87502-5469  
Phone: 505-827-2798  
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