

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

Public Notice No. **2019-XX**

Date: **November 13, 2018**

NOTICE: **PREPARATION OF DRAFT NPDES PERMIT**

Notice is hereby given that the following party 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) permit 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 facility:

NPDES Number	Facility Name	Flow (MGD)*	Receiving Water / Classification
PR0021563	Ponce WWTP	18.0	Caribbean Sea, Class SC waters

* Million gallons per day (MGD)

This notice is being given to inform the public that EPA has prepared draft NPDES permit for this facility and **will hold a public hearing to solicit comments on the proposed draft permit on November 29, 2018 from 5:00 through 7:00 p.m. at the Ponce School of Medicine located in Ponce, Puerto Rico.**

The 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 permits, the applicant will be required to comply with all the conditions in this permit.

The draft permit prepared by EPA is based on the administrative record. 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 record is 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 calling (787) 977-5870. 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>.

All persons may provide comments during the public comment period which ends on **December 13, 2018**. If the EPA finds that comments timely submitted appear to raise substantial new questions, EPA may reopen the public comment period for that permit.

The permittee/applicant and other persons will have the opportunity to present and submit information and comment in favor of or in opposition to the proposed terms and conditions stated in the **Ponce RWWTP** draft permit modification. Verbal comments may be provided in Spanish or English at the hearing. The hearing officer shall have reasonable discretion in the conduct of the hearing. among other things, the hearing officer may set limits upon the time allowed for oral statements, may require submission of specified statements or types of statements to be in writing, and/or may allow reasonable extension of the comment period by so stating at the hearing.

EPA's decision on the administration of any hearing, and the rights and objections of participants are governed by regulations at 40 CFR §124.12. If the public comment period is not reopened, 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 and/or during the public comment period shall be considered by EPA in making the final decision with respect to this permit application. EPA will issue a response to comments as provided in 40 CFR §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