

ATTACHMENT C

RESPONSIVENESS SUMMARY FOR THE FOLLOWING WTP DRAFT PERMITS

Peñuelas WTP (PR0022772)
San Sebastian WWTP (PR0025551)
Sanamuerto WTP (PR0026735)
Rancheras WTP (PR0024660)
Malpaso WTP (PR0026395)
Isabela WTP (PR0026638)
Jaguas Ceiba WTP (PR0026841)
Corozal WTP (PR0022624)
Aguas Buenas WTP (PR0022896)
Maunabo WTP (PR0020656)
San German (PR0020818)
Vega Baja WTP (PR0021679)
Sabana Grande Ward WTP (PR0026255)
Boqueron-Betances WTP (PR0026875)

On **November 25, 2025**, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued draft National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits for Water Treatments Plants (WTPs) and one Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) owned by the Puerto Rico Aqueduct and Sewer Authority (PRASA) listed above.

According to 40 Code of Federal Regulations (C.F.R.), Part 124.17, at the time that any final permit decision is issued under 40 C.F.R. §124.15, EPA shall issue a response to comments. This response shall (1) specify which provisions, if any, of the draft permit have been changed in the final permit decision and the reasons for the change; and (2) briefly describe and respond to all significant comments on the draft permit raised during the public comment period, or during any hearing.

Comments on behalf of the following comments were received:

Puerto Rico Aqueduct and Sewer Authority (PRASA)
PO Box 7066
Barrio Obrero Station
San Juan, PR 00916

Comments received were just for Maunabo WWTP (PR0020656); San Germán WWTP (PR0020818); Vega Baja WWTP (PR0021679); Aguas Buenas WTP (PR0022896); San Sebastián New WWTP (PR0025551); Sabana Grande WTP (PR0026255); and Betances WTP (PR0026875). These permits have been reviewed and considered in this final permit decision. A summary of and response to the comments received follows:

A. GENERAL COMMENT

In its comment letter PRASA has raised a number of issues, many of which address inclusion in the permit of conditions contained in the Water Quality Certificate (WQC) issued by Puerto Rico Department of Natural and Environmental Resources (DNER).

Response: EPA is providing a generalized response to PRASA's comments which relate to requirements in DNER's WQCs.

Section 301(b)(1)(C) of the Clean Water Act (CWA) requires that there be achieved effluent limitations necessary to assure that a discharge will meet Water Quality Standards (WQS) of the applicable State and Federal laws and regulations where those effluent limitations are more stringent than the technology-based effluent limitations required by Section 301(b)(1)(A) of the CWA. Section 401(a)(1) of the CWA requires that the State certify that the discharge will comply with the applicable provisions of Sections 301, 302, 303, 306 and 307 of the CWA. Pursuant to Section 401(d) of the CWA any certification shall set forth any effluent limitations and other limitations, and monitoring requirements necessary to assure that any applicant for a Federal permit will comply with any applicable effluent limitations and other limitations under Section 301 or 302 of the CWA, and with any other appropriate requirement of State law set forth in such certification. Also, 40 C.F.R. §122.44(d) requires that each NPDES permit shall include requirements which conform to the conditions of a State Certification under Section 401 of the CWA that meets the requirements of 40 C.F.R. §124.53. Similarly, 40 C.F.R. §124.55 requires that no final NPDES permit shall be issued unless the final permit incorporates the requirements specified in the certification under §124.53. Concerning the certification requirements in 40 C.F.R. §124.53(e)(1), they specify that all Section 401(a)(1) State certifications must contain conditions which are necessary to assure compliance with the applicable provisions of CWA Sections 208(e), 301, 302, 303, 306, and 307 and with appropriate requirements of State law.

DNER issued final WQCs certifying that pursuant to Section 401(a)(1) of the CWA, after due consideration of the applicable provisions established under Sections 208(e), 301, 302, 303, 304(e), 306 and 307 of the CWA concerning water quality requirements, there is reasonable assurance that the discharge will not cause violations to the applicable WQs, provided that the effluent limitations set forth in the WQCs are met by the above facility.

The effluent limitations (where more stringent than technology-based effluent limitations), monitoring requirements and other appropriate requirements of State law (including footnotes, Special Conditions, etc.) specified in the final WQC issued by the DNER were incorporated by EPA into the NPDES permit as required by Section 301(b)(1)(C) and 401(d) of the CWA and the applicable regulations. Therefore, concerns and comments regarding the WQC must be directed to DNER or to the Superior Court.

Also, if EPA receives a revised or modified WQC, we would consider modification of this permit, subject to all applicable federal requirements, to include revised WQC requirements and conditions.

B. Maunabo WWTP (PR0020656)

1. Comments: Part II.A – Effluent Limitations Table:

- a. PRASA understands that the units for Total Ammonia Nitrogen (Nh₄, Nh₃) is incorrect and should be in milligrams (0.081 mg/L).
- b. The limit for Effluent TSS (kg/day) is not included in the Effluent Limitation Table, please indicate if the sample is required for the TSS (kg/day).

2. Responses:

- a. The petition is not granted. EPA has incorporated the Total Ammonia Nitrogen (TAN) units pursuant to the final WQC mandated by DNER. In the event that EPA receives a revised or modified WQC, we would consider modification of this permit, subject to all applicable federal requirements, to include revised WQC requirements and conditions.
- b. This was a typographical error; the reference limit has been included in the Effluent Limitation Table according to 40 CFR 133.102(b).

C. San Germán WWTP (PR0020818)

1. Comment: Part II.A – Effluent Limitations Table:

- a. PRASA understands that the units Total Ammonia Nitrogen (Nh₄, Nh₃) is incorrect and should be in milligrams (0.38 mg/L).

2. Response:

- a. This was a typographical error; the referenced units for Total Ammonia Nitrogen (TAN) has been modified to mg/L according to the WQC.

D. Vega Baja WWTP (PR0021679)

1. Comment: Part II.A – Effluent Limitations Table:

- a. PRASA understands that the parameter to be evaluated is Total Cyanide, which is no longer regulated in SD waters, so what is required here is sampling for Total Cyanide (CN), whose standard is 4.0 µg/l.
- b. PRASA understands that the units for Total Ammonia Nitrogen (Nh₄, Nh₃) are incorrect and should be in milligrams (0.3548 mg/L).

2. Response:

- a. This was a typographical error; the referenced parameter Cyanide, Total (CN) has been modified according to WQC.

- b. This was a typographical error; the referenced units for Total Ammonia Nitrogen (TAN) have been modified according to WQC.

E. Aguas Buenas WTP (PR0022896)

1. Comment: Part II.A – Effluent Limitations Table:

- a. PRASA understands that the units for Total Nitrogen (TKN, NO₂, NO₃) is incorrect and should be in micrograms (1,700 µg/L).

2. Response:

- a. This was a typographical error; the referenced units for Total Nitrogen (TKN, NO₂, NO₃) has been modified according to the WQC.

F. San Sebastián New WWTP (PR0025551)

1. Comment: Part II.A – Effluent Limitations Table:

- a. PRASA understands that the units for Total Ammonia Nitrogen (TAN) should be mg/L not µg/L.

2. Response:

- a. This was a typographical error; the referenced parameter Total Ammonia Nitrogen (TAN) has been modified according to WQC.

G. Sabana Grande WTP (PR0026255)

1. Comment: Part II.A – Effluent Limitations Table:

- a. PRASA understands that the units for Total Ammonia Nitrogen (Nh₄, Nh₃) is incorrect and should be in milligrams (0.38 mg/L).
- b. The NPDES permit number is incorrect and should be PR0026255.
- c. The Effluent Limitations Table in paragraph A. Final Effluent Limitations-Outfall Number 001 in PART I of the draft permit indicates quarterly sampling for lead with a permit limit of 2.58 ug/L. The current NDES permit for the Sabana Grande WTP (PR0026255) does not require monitoring for lead in the effluent. Therefore, PRASA does not have data to identify potential noncompliance concerns with the lead criterion. PRASA requests that the effluent limitation for lead be Monitoring Only.

2. Response:

- a. The referenced units for Total Ammonia Nitrogen (NH₄, NH₃) has been removed according to WQC.
- b. This is a typographical error; the NPDES permit number has been modified according to WQC.
- c. The petition is not granted. EPA has incorporated the Lead parameter pursuant to the final WQC mandated by DNER. In the event that EPA receives a revised or modified WQC, we would consider modification of this permit, subject to all applicable federal requirements, to include revised WQC requirements and conditions. Please, see response A above.

H. Betances WTP (PR0026875)

1. Comment: Part II.A – Effluent Limitations Table:

- a. PRASA understands that the units for Copper should be reflected should be in micrograms (9.32 µg/L).
- b. PRASA understands that the units for Total Ammonia Nitrogen (TAN) is incorrect and should be in milligrams (0.081 mg/L).
- c. The NPDES permit number is incorrect (26841) for Jagua Ceiba according to the EPA DRAFT (page 4 onwards). The physical address and all other information correspond to the Betances plant in Cabo Rojo.

2. Response:

- a. This is a typographical error, the referenced units for Copper have been modified according to WQC.
- b. This is a typographical error, the referenced units for Total Ammonia Nitrogen (TAN) have been modified according to WQC.
- c. This is a typographical error; the NPDES permit number and name have been modified according to WQC.