

Fact Sheet for
Proposed Amendments to the
Puerto Rico Water Quality Standards Regulation

The Environmental Quality Board, pursuant to the powers conferred by Law Number 416 of September 22, 2004, as amended, known as the Environmental Public Policy Act, and according to the applicable provisions of Law Number 170 of August 12, 1988, as amended, known as the Administrative Procedure Act, Law Number 454 of December 28, 2000, known as the Regulatory and Administrative Flexibility Act for Small Business, as amended, and the Section 303(c)(1) of the Clean Water Act, 33 U.S.C. 1313(c)(1), intends to amend the Puerto Rico Water Quality Standards Regulation (WQSR). The main objective of the proposed amendments to the WQSR is to modify the water quality standards, as necessary, based on most recent scientific information about the potential impact of pollutants to water bodies that may affect their uses.

The proposed amendments consist of the following:

1. Correct some typographical and translation errors between the English and Spanish versions of the WQSR.
2. Modify Rule 1301 to:
 - a. Delete the term of Total Coliforms.
 - b. Include the following terms:
 - i. Total Ammonia Nitrogen (TAN)
 - ii. Total Nitrogen
 - c. Change the Enterococci definition.
3. Include the acronym TAN in Rule 1301.2.
4. Modify Rule 1303 to address downstream waters protection.
5. Modify Rule 1303.1 to include a water quality standard for Other Pathogenic Organisms as item I and re-enumerate the subsequent item as J.
6. Modify Rule 1303.1 (I¹)(1) Specific Water Quality Standards for Inorganic Substances to:

¹ As in the PRWQSR of 2014.

- a. Relocate the water quality standards Nitrogen (NO₃, NO₂, NH₃), applicable to waters classified as SB and SC to Rule 1303.2.
 - b. Delete the water quality standard for Nitrates + Nitrites (as N) applicable to Class SD waters.
 - c. Relocate the water quality standard for Nitrates + Nitrites (as N) applicable to Class SG waters to Rule 1303.2.
 - d. Relocate the water quality standards Total Nitrogen, applicable to waters classified as SD to Rule 1303.2.
 - e. Delete notes “#”, and “@”.
7. Modify Rule 1303.2 (B)(2) to amend the water quality standards for Coliforms and Enterococci, and include the water quality standard for Total Nitrogen.
 8. Modify Rule 1303.2 (C)(2) to amend the water quality standards for Coliforms and Enterococci, and include the water quality standard for Total Nitrogen.
 9. Modify Rule 1303.2 (D)(2) to:
 - a. amend the water quality standards for Coliforms
 - b. amend and relocate the water quality standard for Total Phosphorous to item “n”,
 - c. clarify and amend the water quality standard of Total Ammonia as Total Ammonia Nitrogen (TAN),
 - d. include and amend the water quality standard of Total Nitrogen,
 - e. add a water quality standard for Enterococci, and
 - f. amend and relocate the water quality standard for Other Pathogenic Organisms to Rule 1303.1.
 10. Modify Rule 1303.2 (F)(2) to:
 - a. clarify and include the water quality standard of Nitrates + Nitrites (as N) as Nitrate–Nitrite (as N), and
 - b. include the water quality standard of Nitrite (as N).
 11. Modify the enumeration of Rule 1304.3 in the Spanish version.
 12. Modify Rule 1308.6 for clarity purposes.