



GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY BOARD

303(d) List
Water bodies that exceed Water Quality Standards

The most recent evaluations conducted on water quality in water bodies of Puerto Rico show that various sub-watersheds of the watersheds in Puerto Rico failed, consistently over the period 2010-2011, water quality criteria for designated uses, as specified in the Puerto Rico Water Quality Standards Regulation. No individual parameter for which criteria is established in the aforementioned Regulation, be they numerical or narrative, it affects all designated uses of a water body. Non-compliance with a particular criteria utilized to protect the water quality in relation to a designated use, does not mean that all other designated uses of that water body are impaired. Because each of these criteria was promulgated to protect designated uses, it is imperative to identify the criteria that are not achieved to develop the tools necessary to bring it to compliance.

Section 303 (d) of the Clean Water Act (CWA) of 1972, as amended, requires that the jurisdictions develop a list that includes water bodies that did not meet the applicable standards (water quality standards) to any designated use specified in the Act, during an evaluation period under consideration. For water bodies that do not meet the applicable standard to a designated use, the Act requires that control measures are in place for pollutants (chemicals, organisms or physical) that prevented compliance with standards. Control measures to be implemented should be those that address the problem that caused non-compliance on the impaired designated use. The designated uses for waters of Puerto Rico are: primary contact (swimming), secondary contact (fishing and boating), preservation of desirable species (aquatic life) and raw source for drinking water

One of the strategies established in Section 303 (d) to be considered in planning to seek the restoration of water bodies impacted is the mechanism for Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) in the corresponding watersheds. A TMDL represents the maximum amount of one or more specific contaminants that can be discharged to a water body daily, without compromising the assimilative capacity of the water body related to the parameter(s) considered. The purpose of a TMDL is to control the levels of specific contaminants that gain access to a water body, causing violations to the applicable water quality standards and hinder the achievement of specific designated uses.

For the above, EQB has developed a draft list of Impaired Water bodies List 303 (d) for the cycle 2012.

The public can review and evaluate the draft List of Impaired Water bodies for the cycle 2012 and additional documents generated by EQB to develop that list. These documents will be available at the following locations, and in the following electronic address:

<http://www2.pr.gov/agencias/jca/areasprogramaticas/EvaluacionPlanificacionEstrategica/Pages/default.aspx#>, from the date of publication of this notice.

Environmental Quality Board
Evaluation and Strategic Planning Area
3rd Floor, Suite 325
Cruz A. Matos Environmental Agencies Building
Ponce de León Ave. 1375
San Juan
Telephone: (787) 767-8181 Ext. 3550

Ponce Regional Office (EQB)
Regional Distribution Center Suite 404
3199 Santiago de los Caballeros Ave.
State Road 14, Ponce
Telephone: (787) 840-4070

Humacao Regional Office
Popular Mortgage Building
Boulevard del Río Ave.
Ramal PR 3, South By Pass, Humacao

Mayagüez Regional Office
State Road 2, Km. 159, Suite 201
Mayagüez
Telephone: (787) 833-1188

Cruz A. Matos Environmental Agencies Building
San José Industrial Park ♦ 1375 Ponce de León Ave. ♦ San Juan PR 00926-2604
PO Box 11488 ♦ San Juan PR 00910
Tel. 787-767-8181 ♦ Fax 787-767-2592

Telephone: (787) 285-2818

Guayama Regional Office
State Road 3, Km. 134.3
Algarrobo Ward, Guayama
Telephone: (787) 864-0103

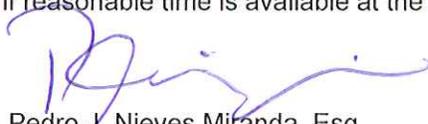
Arecibo Regional Office
1595 San Bernardo Street
Marginal State Road. 2, Km. 81.3, Arecibo
Telephone: (787) 880-0013

The Public Hearing regarding the intention to develop and implement "TMDL's" for the pollutants described in the List 303 (d) will be held on **March 19, 2012** in the Environmental Quality Board, Public Hearing Hall, 4th Floor, Cruz A. Matos Environmental Agencies Building, 1375 Ponce de León Avenue, Urb, San José Industrial Park, San Juan from **9:30 a.m.**

The hearing will be extended as long as there are deponents present. If there are no deponents present within one hour after the commencement of the hearing, it will be declared empty and the hearing will be adjourned.

Interested and affected parties can submit written comments to the Public Hearing Office of the Environmental Quality Board, **no later than thirty (30) days from the publication of this notice.**

EQB invites neighbors, government agencies and the general public to participate in the Public Hearing and submit comments and recommendations. Turns to testify should be requested at least three (3) days before the celebration of the hearing. Interested persons should contact with the Office of Public Hearings of the Environmental Quality Board at telephone (787) 767-8075 or (787) 767-8181 extension 3705. If someone does not seek a turn to testify in advance, it may do so after the deponents who have a turn have completed their testimony, if reasonable time is available at the hearing.



Pedro J. Nieves Miranda, Esq.
Executive Director

This noticed has been issued pursuant to Law 416 of September 22, 2004, as amended, Environmental Public Policy Act.

Authorized by the State Elections Commission of Puerto Rico: CEE-C-12-015