



Adopted Local Limits for Ponce Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant

The Ponce Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant (RWWTP) is on State Road 2, Kilometer 256.2 in the Municipality of Ponce. The plant operates under National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit number PR0021563.

The treatment process consists of screening, grit removal, chemically enhanced primary clarification, and disinfection via chlorine injection. The treated effluent is then discharged more than 3.5 miles offshore into the Caribbean Sea through a high-rate diffuser outfall. The sludge-handling facilities dewater the sludge, which is then disposed to an approved landfill.

The Puerto Rico Aqueduct and Sewer Authority (PRASA) has completed a Technically Based Local Limits evaluation to meet NPDES requirements for the Ponce RWWTP. The limits that will be adopted by PRASA have been developed in accordance with U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Technical Support Document *Local Limits Development Guidance*¹ and NPDES Permit No. PR0021563 Part IV.B.5.b.1 (a) and (b). Table 1 lists the local limits to be adopted by PRASA.

Table 1. Adopted Local Limits

Parameter	Previous Local Limit	Adopted Local Limit
Arsenic	2.4 mg/L	3.43 mg/L
Cadmium	0.10 mg/L	0.97 mg/L
Chromium	1.0 mg/L	1.0 mg/L
Copper	1.0 mg/L	3.07 mg/L
Cyanide (Free)	0.10 mg/L	0.10 mg/L
Lead	0.2 mg/L	6.27 mg/L
Mercury	0.05 mg/L	0.05 mg/L
Molybdenum	No Limit	3.33 mg/L
Nickel	0.5 mg/L	0.38 mg/L
Nitrogen (as TKN + NO ₃ + NO ₂)	23 mg/L	Monitor Only
Selenium	0.20 mg/L	10.62 mg/L
Silver	0.05 mg/L	27.6 mg/L
Surfactants (MBAS)	8.6 mg/L	200 mg/L

¹ U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Office of Wastewater Management. 2004. *Local Limits Development Guidance*. EPA Publication EPA 833-R-04-002A. July.

Table 1. Adopted Local Limits

Parameter	Previous Local Limit	Adopted Local Limit
Zinc	1.0 mg/L	4.06 mg/L
Flow	SIU-specific	SIU-specific
BOD ₅	250-1,305 mg/L	250 mg/L surcharge level
TSS	250-4,027 mg/L	250 mg/L surcharge level
pH	6.5–9.0 SU	6.5–9.0 SU
Phenolics (phenolic substances)	0.5 mg/L	1.0 mg/L
Oil and Grease	50 mg/L Total O&G	50 mg/L Total O&G
Temperature	40°C (104°F)	60°C (140°F) at discharge point
Flammability	Specified as flashpoint > 140°F	Closed-cup flashpoint < 140°F (60°C) No two consecutive readings at ≥5% LEL, and no reading of ≥10% LEL allowed
Toxicity	Parameter-specific	Industry permit-specific technically based limits

Notes:

For parameters where no limit has been adopted, PRASA reserves the right to establish limits on a case-by-case basis when an industry discharges in amounts that could cause interference or pass-through.

°C = degrees Celsius

°F = degrees Fahrenheit

BOD₅ = 5-day biochemical oxygen demand

LEL = lower explosive limit

MBAS = methylene blue active substances

mg/L = milligram(s) per liter

NO₂ = nitrite

NO₃ = nitrate

O&G = oil and grease

POTW = publicly owned treatment works

SIU = significant industrial user

SU = standard units

TKN = total Kjeldahl nitrogen

TSS = total suspended solids