



Adopted Local Limits for Vega Alta Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant

The Vega Alta Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant (RWWTP) is on State Road 676, Kilometer 1.9, Bajuras Ward Interior at the Municipality of Vega Alta. The plant operates under National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit number PR0020923.

The treatment process consists of mechanical bar screening, activated sludge contact stabilization, secondary clarification, then chlorination prior to discharges the treated effluent to the Cibuco River. The sludge-handling facilities consist of aerobic digestion followed by a centrifuge and drying beds. The sludge cake is either transported by truck and disposed of as compost or sent to a landfill.

The Puerto Rico Aqueduct and Sewer Authority (PRASA) has completed a Technically Based Local Limits evaluation to meet NPDES requirements for the Vega Alta 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. PR0020923 Part IV.A.1.b. Table 1 lists the local limits to be adopted by PRASA.

Table 1. Adopted Local Limits

Parameter	Previous Local Limit ^a	Adopted Local Limit
Arsenic	No Limit	0.35 mg/L
Cadmium	0.1 mg/L	0.11 mg/L
Chromium	1.0 mg/L	5.0 mg/L
Copper	1.0 mg/L	2.65 mg/L
Cyanide (Free)	0.01 mg/L	0.22 mg/L
Lead	0.02 mg/L	0.06 mg/L
Mercury	0.05 mg/L	0.0014 mg/L
Molybdenum	No Limit	0.34 mg/L
Nickel	0.05 mg/L	2.91 mg/L
Selenium	0.02 mg/L	0.51 mg/L
Silver	0.05 mg/L	2.54 mg/L
Zinc	0.5 mg/L	5.68 mg/L
Flow	No Limit	SIU-specific

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

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Parameter	Previous Local Limit ^a	Adopted Local Limit
BOD ₅	No Limit	250 mg/L
TSS	No Limit	250 mg/L
Total Nitrogen (TKN+NO ₃ +NO ₂)	No Limit	40 mg/L
pH	5.0–10.0 SU	6.5–10.0 SU
Phenols (phenolic substances)	No Limit	1.0 mg/L
FOG	50 mg/L	50 mg/L Total FOG
Temperature	60°C (140°F)	40°C (104°F) at POTW; 60°C (140°F) at discharge point
Flammability	No Limit	Specified as no material with a closed-cup flashpoint <60°C (140°F) and no two consecutive readings at ≥5% LEL; no reading of ≥10% LEL
Total Toxic Organics	No Limit	No Limit

Notes:

^a Puerto Rico General Limits. PRASA Rules and Regulations for the Supply of Water and Sewer Services, Section 2.05 (June 2003)

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