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Governor

# ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

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Patrick J. Cunningham  
Acting Director

## **NOTICE OF THE PRELIMINARY DECISION TO ISSUE AN INDIVIDUAL AQUIFER PROTECTION PERMIT**

**Public Notice No.: 28-09**

**Published on Friday, March 20, 2009  
Published in the Nogales International newspaper**

Pursuant to Arizona Administrative Code, Title 18, Chapter 9, Article 1, the Director of the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality intends to issue an Individual Aquifer Protection Permit to the following applicant(s):

**Facility Name: Nogales International Wastewater Treatment Plant**

**Aquifer Protection Permit No. P-100620**

<p><b>Permittee:</b> 1) United States Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission, co-owner PO Box 4063 Rio Rico, Arizona 85648</p>	<p>2) City of Nogales, Arizona, co-owner 777 N. Grand Ave. Nogales, AZ 85621</p>
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Nogales International Wastewater Treatment Plant is located at 865 Rio Rico Industrial Park, in Rio Rico, in Santa Cruz County, Arizona over groundwater of the Tucson AMA at 31° 26' 49" N Latitude and 110° 58' 51" West Longitude, in Township 23 S, Range 13 E, Section 12, NE¼, SW¼, E½, and Section 1, SE¼, Gila and Salt River Baseline and Meridian.

The permittee is authorized to operate the Nogales International Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) with an average monthly flow of 17 millions gallons per day (mgd). The new facility is located within the footprint of the existing lagoon treatment system. The WWTP process consists of headworks (refurbished existing mechanical screen, new vortex grit chamber and new fine screen with odor control), new Biological Nutrient Removal (BNR) treatment which includes aeration basins with anoxic zones and aeration zones, new secondary clarifiers, existing sand filters, new UV disinfection system and existing chlorine disinfection for backup, aerobic digester, a sludge belt filter press and waste activated sludge (WAS) storage pond for sludge storage. One of the existing lagoons, complete mixed lagoon (CML) -1 will be used to equalize the flow. Other existing lagoons will be taken out of the service, once the new BNR treatment plant is in operation.

The effluent is discharged to the Santa Cruz River near the confluence of Potrero Creek and the Santa Cruz Rivers in accordance with AZPDES permit AZ0025607. The dried sludge will be hauled offsite to be used for beneficial land application. The solids generated from screenings, grit, and scum will be hauled off-site for disposal in accordance with state and federal regulations. The WWTP is designed and constructed according to plans approved by the ADEQ APP and Reuse Unit. The depth to groundwater at the site is generally 5 to 20 feet and is generally shallower closer to

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Santa Cruz River and Potrero Creek. The direction of groundwater flow generally is to the north or northwest.

The WWTP accepts sewage from the collection systems of the following communities: (1) The community of Rio Rico operated by Rio Rico Utilities; (2) the City of Nogales, Arizona, operated by the City of Nogales, Arizona; and (3) the City of Nogales, Sonora, Mexico, operated by the Organismo Operador Municipal de Agua Potable, Alcantarillado y Saneamiento de Nogales, Sonora (OOMAPAS-NS). The flows from Nogales, Sonora, Mexico, include storm water (combined flows) directed into the sewer system.

This amendment is to construct and operate the new Biological Nutrient Removal (BNR) treatment plant with capacity of 14.74 mgd. However, the permittee has submitted hydraulic modeling data that demonstrates that the new BNR can meet the discharge limits described under Section 4.2, Table I for flow up to 17 mgd.

During the initial start-up of 30-day period, the effluent will be monitored as per Section 4.1, Table I. Monitoring will begin after 30 days from the signature date of permit as per Section 4.2, Table I.

With 24 hour notice, a draft permit with its related documentation is available for public review, Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., at ADEQ, 1110 W. Washington Street, Records Management Center, Phoenix, Arizona.

Persons may submit comments or request a public hearing on the proposed action, in writing, to Shivani Shah, Arizona Department of Environmental Quality, 1110 W. Washington Street, Phoenix, Arizona 85007, within thirty (30) days from the date of this notice. A public hearing request must include the reason for such request.