



NEW MEXICO  
ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT



*Surface Water Quality Bureau*

SUSANA MARTINEZ  
Governor

JOHN A. SANCHEZ  
Lieutenant Governor

Harold Runnels Building, N2050  
1190 South St. Francis Drive (87505)  
P.O. Box 5469, Santa Fe, NM 87502-5469  
Phone (505) 827-0187 Fax (505) 827-0160  
[www.nmenv.state.nm.us](http://www.nmenv.state.nm.us)

RYAN FLYNN  
Cabinet Secretary-Designate

BUTCH TONGATE  
Deputy Secretary

ERIKA SCHWENDER  
Director  
Resource Protection Division

**Certified Mail - Return Receipt Requested**

CORRECTED COPY

December 24, 2013

Mr. Bobby Towle  
Operations Manager  
New Mexico Water Service Company  
401 Horner Street  
Belen, New Mexico 87002

**Re: Rio Communities Wastewater Treatment Plant; Minor; Individual Permit; SIC 4952;  
Compliance Evaluation Inspection; NPDES Permit NM0027782; December 2, 2013**

Dear Mr. Towle:

Enclosed please find a copy of the report and check list for the referenced inspection that the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) conducted at your facility on behalf of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). This inspection report will be sent to the USEPA in Dallas for their review. These inspections are used by USEPA to determine compliance with the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permitting program in accordance with requirements of the federal Clean Water Act.

You are encouraged to review the inspection report, required to correct any problems noted during the inspection, and advised to modify your operational and/or administrative procedures, as appropriate. If you have comments on or concerns with the basis for the findings in the NMED inspection report, please contact us (see the address below) in writing within 30 days from the date of this letter. Further you are encouraged to notify in writing both USEPA and NMED regarding modifications and compliance schedules at the addresses below:

Racquel Douglas  
US Environmental Protection Agency, Region VI  
Enforcement Branch (6EN-WM)  
Fountain Place  
1445 Ross Avenue  
Dallas, Texas 75202-2733

Bruce Yurdin  
New Mexico Environment Department  
Surface Water Quality Bureau  
Point Source Regulation Section  
P.O. Box 5469  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502

Rio Communities  
December 24, 2013  
Page 2

If you have any questions about this inspection report, please contact Sandra Gabaldon at (505) 827-1041 or at [sandra.gabaldon@state.nm.us](mailto:sandra.gabaldon@state.nm.us).

Sincerely,

Bruce J. Yurdin  
Program Manager  
Point Source Regulation Section  
Surface Water Quality Bureau

cc: Carol Peters-Wagnon, USEPA (6EN-WM) by e-mail  
Racquel Douglas, USEPA (6EN-WM) by e-mail  
Larry Giglio, USEPA (6WQ-PP) by e-mail  
Gladys Gooden-Jackson (6EN-WC) by e-mail  
NMED District I, by e-mail



### NPDES Compliance Inspection Report

#### Section A: National Data System Coding

Transaction Code	NPDES	yr/mo/day	Inspec. Type	Inspector	Fac Type	
1 <input type="text" value="N"/> 2 <input type="text" value="5"/> 3 <input type="text" value="N"/> <input type="text" value="M"/> <input type="text" value="0"/> <input type="text" value="0"/> <input type="text" value="2"/> <input type="text" value="7"/> <input type="text" value="7"/> <input type="text" value="8"/> <input type="text" value="2"/> 11 <input type="text" value="1"/> 12 <input type="text" value="1"/> <input type="text" value="3"/> <input type="text" value="1"/> <input type="text" value="2"/> <input type="text" value="0"/> <input type="text" value="2"/> 17 <input type="text" value="C"/> 18 <input type="text" value="S"/> 20 <input type="text" value="1"/>	Remarks					
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Inspection Work Days		Facility Evaluation Rating		Reserved		
67 <input type="text" value=""/> <input type="text" value=""/> <input type="text" value=""/> 69		70 <input type="text" value="3"/>		71 <input type="text" value="N"/> 72 <input type="text" value="N"/> 73 <input type="text" value=""/> <input type="text" value=""/> <input type="text" value=""/> 74 75 <input type="text" value=""/> <input type="text" value=""/> <input type="text" value=""/> <input type="text" value=""/> 80		

#### Section B: Facility Data

Name and Location of Facility Inspected <i>(For industrial users discharging to POTW, also include POTW name and NPDES permit number)</i> RIO COMMUNITIES WWTP In Belen, go east on NM309 (Renken Ave.) right on NM 7 for ¼ mile, right on NM 304 for 1 mile To Vista Grande Estates and turn right into subdivision on Chisam Road. Facility is a the end of Chisam Road n te left side.  <p style="text-align:center;"><b>VALENCIA COUNTY</b></p>	Entry Time /Date 1225 Hours / 12-02-2013  Exit Time/Date 1400 Hours / 12-02-2013	Permit Effective Date November 7, 2007  Permit Expiration Date October 31, 2012 (ADMINISTRATIVELY CONTINUED)
Name(s) of On-Site Representative(s)/Title(s)/Phone and Fax Number(s) Bobby Towle, Operations Manager	Other Facility Data  SIC 4952  N 34.63396 W -106.74036	
Name, Address of Responsible Official/Title/Phone and Fax Number Mr. Robert Towle, Operations Manager / (505) 864-2218 / (505) 463-1395 (cell) New Mexico Water Service Company 401 Horner Street Belen, NM 87002	Contacted Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	

#### Section C: Areas Evaluated During Inspection (S = Satisfactory, M = Marginal, U = Unsatisfactory, N = Not Evaluated)

S	Permit	M	Flow Measurement	S	Operations & Maintenance	N	CSO/SSO
S	Records/Reports	S	Self-Monitoring Program	S	Sludge Handling/Disposal	N	Pollution Prevention
S	Facility Site Review	N	Compliance Schedules	N	Pretreatment	N	Multimedia
S	Effluent/Receiving Waters	S	Laboratory	N	Storm Water	N	Other:

#### Section D: Summary of Findings/Comments (Attach additional sheets if necessary)

Please see checklist and further explanations for details of findings

Name(s) and Signature(s) of Inspector(s)	Agency/Office/Telephone/Fax	Date
Sandra Gabaldon	NMED/SWQB/(505) 827-1041/(505) 827-0610	December 24, 2013
Signature of Management QA Reviewer	Agency/Office/Phone and Fax Numbers	Date
Bruce Yurdin, Program Manager	NMED/SWQB/(505) 827-2795/(505) 827-0610	December 24, 2014

**New Mexico Water Service Company – Rio Communities**

**PERMIT NO: NM0027782**

**SECTION A - PERMIT VERIFICATION**

PERMIT SATISFACTORILY ADDRESSES OBSERVATIONS  S  M  U  NA (FURTHER EXPLANATION ATTACHED NO)

DETAILS:

1. CORRECT NAME AND MAILING ADDRESS OF PERMITTEE  Y  N  NA

2. NOTIFICATION GIVEN TO EPA/STATE OF NEW DIFFERENT OR INCREASED DISCHARGES  Y  N  NA

3. NUMBER AND LOCATION OF DISCHARGE POINTS AS DESCRIBED IN PERMIT  Y  N  NA

4. ALL DISCHARGES ARE PERMITTED  Y  N  NA

**SECTION B - RECORDKEEPING AND REPORTING EVALUATION**

RECORDS AND REPORTS MAINTAINED AS REQUIRED BY PERMIT.  S  M  U  NA (FURTHER EXPLANATION ATTACHED YES)

DETAILS:

1. ANALYTICAL RESULTS CONSISTENT WITH DATA REPORTED ON DMRs.  Y  N  NA

2. SAMPLING AND ANALYSES DATA ADEQUATE AND INCLUDE.  S  M  U  NA

a) DATES, TIME(S) AND LOCATION(S) OF SAMPLING  Y  N  NA

b) NAME OF INDIVIDUAL PERFORMING SAMPLING  Y  N  NA

c) ANALYTICAL METHODS AND TECHNIQUES. Incorrect analytical method used for pH  Y  N  NA

d) RESULTS OF ANALYSES AND CALIBRATIONS.  Y  N  NA

e) DATES AND TIMES OF ANALYSES.  Y  N  NA

f) NAME OF PERSON(S) PERFORMING ANALYSES.  Y  N  NA

3. LABORATORY EQUIPMENT CALIBRATION AND MAINTENANCE RECORDS ADEQUATE.  S  M  U  NA

4. PLANT RECORDS INCLUDE SCHEDULES, DATES OF EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR.  S  M  U  NA

5. EFFLUENT LOADINGS CALCULATED USING DAILY EFFLUENT FLOW AND DAILY ANALYTICAL DATA.  Y  N  NA

**SECTION C - OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE**

TREATMENT FACILITY PROPERLY OPERATED AND MAINTAINED.  S  M  U  NA (FURTHER EXPLANATION ATTACHED NO)

DETAILS:

1. TREATMENT UNITS PROPERLY OPERATED.  S  M  U  NA

2. TREATMENT UNITS PROPERLY MAINTAINED.  S  M  U  NA

3. STANDBY POWER OR OTHER EQUIVALENT PROVIDED.  S  M  U  NA

4. ADEQUATE ALARM SYSTEM FOR POWER OR EQUIPMENT FAILURES AVAILABLE.  S  M  U  NA

5. ALL NEEDED TREATMENT UNITS IN SERVICE  S  M  U  NA

6. ADEQUATE NUMBER OF QUALIFIED OPERATORS PROVIDED.  S  M  U  NA

7. SPARE PARTS AND SUPPLIES INVENTORY MAINTAINED.  S  M  U  NA

8. OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE MANUAL AVAILABLE.  Y  N  NA

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES AND SCHEDULES ESTABLISHED.  Y  N  NA

PROCEDURES FOR EMERGENCY TREATMENT CONTROL ESTABLISHED.  Y  N  NA

New Mexico Water Service Company – Rio Del Oro Rio Communities

PERMIT NO.  
NM0030414002782

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SECTION C - OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE (CONTD)

9. HAVE BYPASSES/OVERFLOWS OCCURRED AT THE PLANT OR IN THE COLLECTION SYSTEM IN THE LAST YEAR?  Y  N  NA  
 IF SO, HAS THE REGULATORY AGENCY BEEN NOTIFIED?  Y  N  NA  
 HAS CORRECTIVE ACTION BEEN TAKEN TO PREVENT ADDITIONAL BYPASSES/OVERFLOWS?  Y  N  NA
10. HAVE ANY HYDRAULIC OVERLOADS OCCURRED AT THE TREATMENT PLANT?  Y  N  NA  
 IF SO, DID PERMIT VIOLATIONS OCCUR AS A RESULT?  Y  N  NA

SECTION D - SELF-MONITORING

PERMITTEE SELF-MONITORING MEETS PERMIT REQUIREMENTS.  S  M  U  NA (FURTHER EXPLANATION ATTACHED NO.)  
 DETAILS:

1. SAMPLES TAKEN AT SITE(S) SPECIFIED IN PERMIT.  Y  N  NA
2. LOCATIONS ADEQUATE FOR REPRESENTATIVE SAMPLES.  Y  N  NA
3. FLOW PROPORTIONED SAMPLES OBTAINED WHEN REQUIRED BY PERMIT.  Y  N  NA
4. SAMPLING AND ANALYSES COMPLETED ON PARAMETERS SPECIFIED IN PERMIT.  Y  N  NA
5. SAMPLING AND ANALYSES PERFORMED AT FREQUENCY SPECIFIED IN PERMIT.  Y  N  NA
6. SAMPLE COLLECTION PROCEDURES ADEQUATE  Y  N  NA
- a) SAMPLES REFRIGERATED DURING COMPOSITING.  Y  N  NA
- b) PROPER PRESERVATION TECHNIQUES USED.  Y  N  NA
- c) CONTAINERS AND SAMPLE HOLDING TIMES CONFORM TO 40 CFR 136.3.  Y  N  NA
7. IF MONITORING AND ANALYSES ARE PERFORMED MORE OFTEN THAN REQUIRED BY PERMIT, ARE THE RESULTS REPORTED IN PERMITTEE'S SELF-MONITORING REPORT? Permittee is required to report duplicate samples on DMR.  Y  N  NA

SECTION E - FLOW MEASUREMENT

PERMITTEE FLOW MEASUREMENT MEETS PERMIT REQUIREMENTS.  S  M  U  NA (FURTHER EXPLANATION ATTACHED NO.)  
 DETAILS:

1. PRIMARY FLOW MEASUREMENT DEVICE PROPERLY INSTALLED AND MAINTAINED.  Y  N  NA  
 TYPE OF DEVICE : 6" Parshall Flume.
2. FLOW MEASURED AT EACH OUTFALL AS REQUIRED.  Y  N  NA
3. SECONDARY INSTRUMENTS (TOTALIZERS, RECORDERS, ETC.) PROPERLY OPERATED AND MAINTAINED.  Y  N  NA
4. CALIBRATION FREQUENCY ADEQUATE.  Y  N  NA  
 RECORDS MAINTAINED OF CALIBRATION PROCEDURES.  Y  N  NA  
 CALIBRATION CHECKS DONE TO ASSURE CONTINUED COMPLIANCE.  Y  N  NA
5. FLOW ENTERING DEVICE WELL DISTRIBUTED ACROSS THE CHANNEL AND FREE OF TURBULENCE.  Y  N  NA
6. HEAD MEASURED AT PROPER LOCATION.  Y  N  NA
7. FLOW MEASUREMENT EQUIPMENT ADEQUATE TO HANDLE EXPECTED RANGE OF FLOW RATES.  Y  N  NA

SECTION F - LABORATORY

PERMITTEE LABORATORY PROCEDURES MEET PERMIT REQUIREMENTS.  S  M  U  NA (FURTHER EXPLANATION ATTACHED NO.)  
 DETAILS:

1. EPA APPROVED ANALYTICAL PROCEDURES USED (40 CFR 136.3 FOR LIQUIDS, 503.8(b) FOR SLUDGES) Permittee has the incorrect Standard Method Edition on benchsheet.  Y  N  NA

**SECTION F - LABORATORY (CONT'D)**

- 2. IF ALTERNATIVE ANALYTICAL PROCEDURES ARE USED, PROPER APPROVAL HAS BEEN OBTAINED " Y " N X NA
- 3. SATISFACTORY CALIBRATION AND MAINTENANCE OF INSTRUMENTS AND EQUIPMENT. X S O M " U " NA
- 4. QUALITY CONTROL PROCEDURES ADEQUATE. X S " M " U " NA
- 5. DUPLICATE SAMPLES ARE ANALYZED, 100 % OF THE TIME. X Y " N " NA
- 6. SPIKED SAMPLES ARE ANALYZED,     % OF THE TIME. " Y " N X NA
- 7. COMMERCIAL LABORATORY USED. X Y " N " NA

LAB NAME Hall Environmental Analysis Laboratory Wilkins Environmental Consulting & Laboratories  
 LAB ADDRESS 4901 Hawkins, NE, Albuquerque, NM 87109 832 NW 67<sup>th</sup> Street, Oklahoma City, OK 73116  
 PARAMETERS PERFORMED BOD, TSS, E. coli Biomonitoring

**SECTION G - EFFLUENT/RECEIVING WATERS OBSERVATIONS.** X S " M O U " NA (FURTHER EXPLANATION ATTACHED NO).

OUTFALL NO.	OIL SHEEN	GREASE	TURBIDITY	VISIBLE FOAM	FLOAT SOL.	COLOR	OTHER
001	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	CLEAR	

RECEIVING WATER OBSERVATIONS: Effluent appears clear, although there is some turbulence at the outfall from large catfish swimming in the area.

**SECTION H - SLUDGE DISPOSAL**

SLUDGE DISPOSAL MEETS PERMIT REQUIREMENTS. X S " M " U " NA (FURTHER EXPLANATION ATTACHED NO).  
 DETAILS:

- 1. SLUDGE MANAGEMENT ADEQUATE TO MAINTAIN EFFLUENT QUALITY. X S " M " U " NA
- 2. SLUDGE RECORDS MAINTAINED AS REQUIRED BY 40 CFR 503. X S " M " U " NA
- 3. FOR LAND APPLIED SLUDGE, TYPE OF LAND APPLIED TO: N/A (e.g., FOREST, AGRICULTURAL, PUBLIC CONTACT SITE)

**SECTION I - SAMPLING INSPECTION PROCEDURES** (FURTHER EXPLANATION ATTACHED    ).

- 1. SAMPLES OBTAINED THIS INSPECTION. " Y " N X NA
- 2. TYPE OF SAMPLE OBTAINED  
 GRAB                      COMPOSITE SAMPLE     METHOD                      FREQUENCY
- 3. SAMPLES PRESERVED. " Y " N " NA
- 4. FLOW PROPORTIONED SAMPLES OBTAINED. " Y " N " NA
- 5. SAMPLE OBTAINED FROM FACILITY'S SAMPLING DEVICE. " Y " N " NA
- 6. SAMPLE REPRESENTATIVE OF VOLUME AND MATURE OF DISCHARGE. " Y " N " NA
- 7. SAMPLE SPLIT WITH PERMITTEE. " Y " N " NA
- 8. CHAIN-OF-CUSTODY PROCEDURES EMPLOYED. " Y " N " NA
- 9. SAMPLES COLLECTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH PERMIT. " Y " N " NA

**Compliance Evaluation Inspection  
New Mexico Water Service Company  
Rio Communities Wastewater Treatment Facility  
NPDES permit No. NM0027782  
December 2, 2013**

**INTRODUCTION**

A Compliance Evaluation Inspection (CEI) was conducted at the Rio Communities Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) on December 2, 2013 by Sandra Gabaldón and Daniel Valenta of the State of New Mexico Environment Department (NMED), Surface Water Quality Bureau (SWQB). This facility is a private domestic wastewater treatment facility classified under the federal Clean Water Act (CWA), Section 402 National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit program, and is assigned NPDES permit number NM0027782. The facility design flow is 0.3 million gallons per day (MGD).

The Rio Communities discharges into the Rio Grande Basin in Segment 20.6.4.105 (NMAC State of New Mexico Standards for Interstate and Intrastate Surface Waters). Designated uses include: Irrigation, marginal warmwater aquatic life, livestock watering, public water supply, wildlife habitat and primary contact.

The inspectors arrived at Rio Communities at 1225 hours and conducted an entrance interview with Mr. Bobby Towle, Supervisor. The inspector made introductions, presented her credentials and discussed the purpose of the inspection with Towle. An exit meeting was held with Mr. Towle at the New Mexico Water Service Company office at approximately 1400 hours. Ms. Gabaldón explained to Mr. Towle the preliminary findings of the inspection and requested records for review.

The NMED performs a specific number of CEI's annually for the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The purpose of this inspection is to provide the USEPA with information to evaluate the permittee's compliance with their NPDES permit. The enclosed inspection report is based on verbal information supplied by the permittee's representatives, observations made by Ms. Gabaldón, and a review of records maintained by the permittee, commercial laboratory, and/or NMED. Findings of the inspection are detailed in the attached EPA form 3560-3 and in the narrative further explanations section of the report.

**TREATMENT SCHEME**

The Rio Communities WWTP serves a population of approximately 2000. Currently, the treatment plant design flow is 0.3 MGD. Wastewater influent enters the facility via three lift stations. It proceeds through a barscreen and enters a grit chamber. Debris from the headworks is collected into an on-site dumpster and disposed of at the landfill.

Wastewater then enters a wet well with two screw pumps and two submersible pumps. Next, the wastewater enters the aeration basin where it then proceeds to the clarifier. The effluent is disinfected prior to discharge by ultraviolet lights.

### **SLUDGE MANAGEMENT**

Waste activated sludge (WAS) is sent to the sludge holding basin on a daily basis and then sent to a centrifuge for removal of decant. The sludge is then placed into a dumpster and is later transported to the landfill for final disposal. The decant from the sludge is sent back to the headworks for further treatment.

**Compliance Evaluation Inspection  
Rio Communities  
NPDES Permit No. NM0027782  
December 2, 2013**

**FURTHER EXPLANATIONS:**

Note: The sections are arranged according to the format of the enclosed EPA inspection checklist (Form 3560-3), rather than being ranked in order of importance.

**Section E – Flow Measurement – Overall Rating of “Marginal”**

**Permit Requirements** for Flow Measurement:

The Permit in Part III, Section C.6 states:

*Appropriate flow measurement devices and methods consistent with accepted scientific practices shall be selected and used to ensure the accuracy of reliability of measurements of the volume of monitored discharges. The devices shall be installed, calibrated and maintained to insure that the accuracy of the measurements are consistent with the accepted capability of that type of device. Devices selected shall be capable of measuring flows with a maximum deviation of less than 10% from the true discharge rates throughout the range of expected discharge volumes.*

**Findings** for Flow Measurement:

The permittee provided the inspector with an annual calibration report and also provided a monthly log of “calibration checks” they have been doing at the plant. However, upon discussion on how they were calibrating their instrument, it was found that they were doing this incorrectly. The correct method to calibrate their instrument is to get a reading of the staff gauge along with the totalizer at the same time and then compare the two to see if they are within 10% of each other. The operator is only reading the totalizer reading and comparing it with the totalizer strip it is producing.