

RHODE ISLAND DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT
OFFICE OF WATER RESOURCES
PERMITS SECTION
235 PROMENADE STREET
PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND 02908-5767

PUBLIC NOTICE OF PROPOSED PERMIT ACTION UNDER THE RHODE ISLAND POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM (RIPDES) PROGRAM WHICH REGULATES DISCHARGES INTO THE WATERS OF THE STATE UNDER CHAPTER 46-12 OF THE RHODE ISLAND GENERAL LAWS OF 1956, AS AMENDED.

DATE OF NOTICE: Friday, July 26, 2024

PUBLIC NOTICE NUMBER: PN 24-04

DRAFT RIPDES PERMIT

RIPDES PERMIT NUMBER: RI0021598

NAME AND MAILING ADDRESS OF APPLICANT:

Rhode Island Airport Corporation
2000 Post Road
Warwick, Rhode Island 02886

NAME AND ADDRESS OF FACILITY WHERE DISCHARGE OCCURS:

Rhode Island T.F. Green International Airport
2000 Post Road
Warwick, Rhode Island 02886

RECEIVING WATERS:

Tributaries to Warwick Pond (Water body ID#: RI0007024R-05)
Buckeye Brook and Tributaries (Water body ID#: RI0007024R-01)
Tuscatucket Brook (Water body ID#: RI0007025R-05)

RECEIVING WATER CLASSIFICATIONS:

B (Tributaries to Warwick Pond and Buckeye Brook and Tributaries)
and A (Tuscatucket Brook)

The above-named applicant has applied to the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (DEM) for reissuance of a RIPDES Permit to obtain permit coverage for stormwater discharges associated with industrial activity into the designated receiving waters. The applicant is engaged in the operation of a major commercial airport serving Rhode Island, southeastern Massachusetts, and

Connecticut. The discharges to surface waters are from seventeen (17) perimeter outfalls that receive stormwater flows from the Rhode Island T.F. Green International Airport's ("the Airport's") storm drainage system consisting of storm drains, catch basins, underground piping, and structural stormwater controls. The discharges are to the following receiving waters: Tributaries to Warwick Pond, Buckeye Brook and Tributaries, and Tuscatusset Brook. This permit authorizes stormwater and certain allowable non-stormwater discharges from the seventeen (17) outfalls as defined in the Permit to waters of the State from the Airport's storm sewer system. The permit also includes requirements for three (3) internal outfalls: Outfall 100A, Outfall 200A, and Outfall 300A. The discharge from internal Outfall 100A consists entirely of treated effluent from the Aboveground Storage Tank (AST) fuel farm water treatment system. Outfall 100A is an internal waste stream associated with Outfall 001A and is defined as the effluent of the AST fuel farm water treatment system. The discharges from internal Outfalls 200A/300A consist of flows that are bypassed at a location downstream of the diversions points for the terminal area (200A) and cargo area (300A). These internal outfalls associated with the glycol diversion systems and are further discussed in the permit's associated Fact Sheet.

The draft permit and/or Fact Sheet has been revised to reflect the following: revisions to outfalls 002A, 003A, 008A, and 010A wet weather monitoring requirements, which includes Total Cadmium monitoring, quarterly PFAS monitoring, and Enterococci monitoring; the addition of dry weather monitoring requirements for outfalls 002A, 003A, 008A, and 009A, which includes water quality-based limits for Total Aluminum, Total Arsenic, Total Cadmium, Total Copper, Total Iron, Total Lead, and Total Zinc; revisions to minor outfall monitoring requirements that includes the removal of outfall 005A, semiannual PFAS monitoring, and Enterococci monitoring; consistency with the 2019 RIPDES Multi-Sector General Permit (MSGP) concerning the definition of a measurable storm event and listing of a allowable non-stormwater discharges; consistency with the NPDES Sufficiently Sensitive Test Methods and Reporting Rule; an updated reporting section to reflect the electronic submission of DMRs by the Airport in order to comply with the NPDES Electronic Reporting Rule; and updated Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) conditions, which includes submitting an amended SWPPP and Drainage Master Plan within 180 days of the effective date of the permit, consistency with the 2019 RIPDES MSGP stormwater plan requirements, and a permit condition requiring the facility submit an Impervious Cover Reduction Plan within 12 months of the effective date of the permit.

The permit contains limitations and conditions to ensure that it is protective of water quality. The DEM has also determined that the proposed permit complies with the antidegradation provisions of the Rhode Island Water Quality Regulations and that existing uses will be maintained and protected.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

A fact sheet (describing the type of facility and significant factual, legal and policy questions considered in this permit action) may be obtained at no cost by writing or calling DEM as noted below:

Aaron Mello
Environmental Engineer II
Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management
Office of Water Resources
235 Promenade Street
Providence, Rhode Island 02908-5767
(401) 537-4255
e-mail: aaron.mello@dem.ri.gov

The administrative record containing all documents relating to this permit action is on file and may be inspected, by appointment, at the DEM's Providence office mentioned above between 8:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays.

PUBLIC WORKSHOP:

DEM will be holding a Public Workshop to discuss the draft permit. The Workshop will be held at the City of Warwick Municipal Annex, Sawtooth Building Community Room, 65 Centerville Road, Warwick, Rhode Island on Wednesday, August 7, 2024 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

If you have any questions regarding the workshop, please contact Aaron Mello at (401) 537-4255. Please note that the workshop is informal and not intended to be a forum for submittal of comments into the official record regarding the draft permit. Only written comments received during the comment period, and oral testimony provided at the hearing regarding the draft RIPDES permit, will be considered part of the record.

PUBLIC HEARING:

Pursuant to Chapter 42-17.4 of the Rhode Island General Laws a public hearing has been scheduled to consider these permits. Notice should be taken that a public hearing will be held at the following time and place:

6:00 PM Monday, September 9, 2024
Room 280
235 Promenade Street
Providence, Rhode Island 02908

In accordance with the RIPDES Regulations, the following is a summary of the procedures that shall be followed at the Public Hearing:

- a. The Presiding Officer shall have the authority to open and conclude the Hearing and to maintain order; and
- b. Any persons appearing at such a hearing may submit oral or written statements and data concerning the draft permit.

In addition, for the sake of accuracy, it is requested that statements be submitted in writing at the time of the hearing or be mailed to the DEM's Office of Water Resources RIPDES Program, at the above address, before the date of the hearing. Oral testimony will also be heard at the Public Hearing but will be limited to five (5) minutes in duration.

235 Promenade Street is accessible to individuals who are handicapped. If communication assistance (readers/interpreters/captioners) is needed, or any other accommodation to ensure equal participation, please call Aaron Mello or RI Relay 711 at least three (3) business days prior to the meeting so arrangements can be made to provide such assistance at no cost to the person requesting.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD: (July 26, 2024 to September 10, 2024)

Interested parties may submit comments on the permit actions and the administrative record to the address above no later than 4:00 PM on Tuesday, September 10, 2024.

Any person, including the permittee/applicant, who believes these permit actions are inappropriate, must raise all reasonably ascertainable issues and submit all reasonably available arguments and factual grounds supporting their position, including all supporting material, by the close of the public comment period under 250-RICR-150-10-1.42 of the Regulations for the Rhode Island Pollutant Discharge Elimination System. The public comment period is from Friday, July 26, 2024 to Tuesday, September 10, 2024. Commenters may request a longer comment period if necessary to provide a reasonable opportunity to comply with these requirements. Comments should be directed to DEM as noted above.

If, during the public comment period, significant new questions are raised concerning the permit, DEM may require a new draft permit or fact sheet or may reopen the public comment period. A public notice will be issued for any of these actions.

FINAL DECISION AND APPEALS:

Following the close of the comment period, and after a public hearing, if such hearing is held, the Director will issue a final decision and forward a copy of the final decision to the permittee and each person who has submitted written comments or requested notice. Within 30 days following the notice of the final decision, any interested person may submit a request for a formal hearing in accordance with the requirements of 250-RICR-150-10-1.50 of the Regulations for the Rhode Island Pollutant Discharge Elimination System.

22 July 2024

Date

Heidi Travers

Heidi Travers, P.E.
Environmental Engineer IV
RIPDES, Office of Water Resources
Department of Environmental Management