

An Evaluation of the Compliance of the Water Pollution Control Rules in Port of Spain, Trinidad

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Abstract: *Water quality is a growing concern throughout the developing world and the effects of water pollution can be very costly. Preventing and cleaning up pollution in developing countries are met with many structural obstacles, particularly economic ones. To address the problems of environmental degradation due to land based water pollution, Trinidad and Tobago introduced, in 2001, the Water Pollution Rules (WPR) to regulate the quality of effluent discharged to the environment. In 2009, the EMA began issuing Water Pollution Permits (WPPs) to facilities whose effluent contained pollutants outside the permitted levels. This paper reports on compliance to the WPR at selected facilities in the Port of Spain watershed in Trinidad. The study found that the management of facilities would not have volunteered pollution remedial actions in the absence of WPR and WPP. Moreover, the results of policy implementation appear to be quite encouraging. Overall, the compliance for the monitored stations ranged from 20% to 75% which is considered acceptable in the early stage of implementing the WPR. To improve the success of WPR, consideration should be given to the implementation of the WPR according to the polluter-pay-principle and/or increasing the fines and penalties of enforcement. It is recognised that the WPR as currently implemented cannot guarantee the desirable water quality.*

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