



## **As from tomorrow, January 1, EPM begins to provide the aqueduct and sewage services directly to Rionegro**

- **Through a merger by absorption operation between the company EP Rio and EPM, the service is integrated to the EPM system, with the same scheme of ten municipalities of the Metropolitan Area of the Aburrá Valley**
- **Until October 31, 2017, these services were provided by EP Rio as an affiliate of the EPM Group in the municipality of Oriente de Antioquia**
- **The contract for the construction of the new wastewater treatment plant in Rionegro has already been awarded**

EPM ends this year with good news for the inhabitants of the municipality of Rionegro, in the Oriente de Antioquia, as it will begin to be in direct charge of the delivery of aqueduct and sewage service as from January 1. The change takes place at the conclusion of the merger by absorption process with EP Rio, which, since 2017, it had become an affiliate to the Grupo EPM to contribute to sustainable development, protect the environment and contribute to the quality of life of the residents of Rionegro.

Thus, the service, infrastructure, operation and administration of Rionegro's aqueduct and sewage system will be fully integrated to EPM, in similar administrative and operational conditions than the ten municipalities of the Metropolitan Area of Aburrá Valley. Thus, a total of 73 EP Rio employees become part of the Company's payroll.



This merger seeks to materialize the synergies that enable business optimization. After thanking the community for allowing teamwork with EPM, the Company's General Manager (interim), Jorge Andrés Tabares Ángel, reaffirmed that the entity undertakes to "leverage the sustainable development of the Oriente Antioqueño and to take care of the basins that supply water to this important region and the Aburrá Valley, taking into consideration the well-being of present and future communities."

The director also said that the merging of the two companies strengthens the financial support to Rionegro to meet the investment needs in the territory for the improvement of their aqueduct and sewage system.

The merger was approved last Friday by the Superintendence of Partnerships and today, Tuesday, the registration before the Oriente Antioqueño's Chamber of Commerce was formalized.

According to projections from the National Planning Department, by 2035, the Medellin-Rionegro axis will be one of ten city nuclei leading the economic development of the country. The lack of adequate infrastructure for the provision of public utilities would generate a barrier to materialize this national vision.

## **Rionegro Advances**

Since 2017, efforts have been brought together in the process of catchment, treatment of drinking water and wastewater, as well as in the infrastructure investments that will enhance the quality and reliability of the delivery of Rionegro aqueduct and sewage services.

In addition to the improvement in the catchment processes, the drinking water treatment section has received and is receiving investments nearly amounting to \$2,300 million, mainly in the commissioning of a hypochlorite generator, as well as the performance of civil works necessary for plant maintenance and delivery of general supplies to ensure water quality.



Another important point is the integration of the San Nicolas Valley. Last year, works amounting to \$66,258 million were carried out at the Drinking Water Treatment Plant, the construction of the La Fe tank, the pumping system and the installation of the 2-kilometer propulsion network and the 3-kilometer distribution network. In 2019, works amounting to \$18,855 million were carried out in the installation of the 2-kilometer distribution network, the acquisition of 13.8-kilometer ductile iron (DI) pipe and in the award of contracts for \$43,423 million.

It should be highlighted that a new wastewater treatment plant will be built in this municipality, under a contract that was entered into this December for an amount rounding \$153,000 million.

In total, the investment nearly amounts to \$343,000 million, which ensures the proper delivery of aqueduct and sewage services under EPM quality standards in Rionegro.

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