

EPA's response to press request regarding Sergio Cuevas WTP:

“Ensuring that people have a safe source of drinking water is essential to protecting public health and is an EPA priority. PRASA drinking water generally complies with drinking water standards. The PRASA supplied drinking water is also tested on a monthly basis, as required by the Puerto Rico Department of Health, who has the primacy of the Safe Drinking Water Act in Puerto Rico. EPA does not house this sampling data. However, to access the data, please contact Mr. Javier Torres at the Puerto Rico Department of Health at (787) 777-0150. To view compliance data that is posted online, including violations, visit EPA's compliance database: <https://sdwis.epa.gov>

We understand that the yellow/brown color was caused by the high content of manganese in the water intake of the Sergio Cuevas drinking water plant that provides drinking water to San Juan. In order to address the situation, PRASA implemented several measures over the past weekend to not only clean all the treatment components of the facility but also the distribution system. By September 23, the situation was corrected in many areas of San Juan and it continues to improve.

Manganese is a secondary drinking water standard. National Secondary Drinking Water Regulations (NSDWRs) (or secondary standards) are non-enforceable guidelines regulating contaminants that may cause cosmetic effects (such as skin or tooth discoloration) or aesthetic effects (such as taste, odor, or color) in drinking water. EPA recommends secondary standards to water systems but does not require systems to comply with the standard. However, states may choose to adopt them as enforceable standards.”