



<http://www.epa.gov/region02/capp/10results.html>

## **Puerto Rico**

### **Puerto Rico Aqueduct and Sewer Authority**

Under a consent decree entered by the court on August 24, 2010, the Puerto Rico Aqueduct and Sewer Authority (PRASA) has agreed to implement major capital improvements and upgrades over the next 15 years to resolve longstanding violations of the Clean Water Act at 126 drinking water plants across the island that discharge into Puerto Rico's lakes, rivers and streams, some of which are sources of drinking water. Most of the communities served by the drinking water treatment plants that will be upgraded under the agreement are in low income communities.

EPA estimates that the agreement will annually reduce major pollutants from entering into Puerto Rico's water bodies of suspended solids by 15 million pounds per year, residual chlorine by 600,000 pounds per year, and discharges of total phosphorous by 250,000 pounds per year.

The agreement requires PRASA to invest more than \$195 million in improvements. PRASA has also paid a \$1.02 million civil penalty. Under the decree, PRASA will complete 291 short-, mid-, and long-term capital improvement projects, which will include the construction of 34 treatment systems at facilities that currently are discharging untreated sludge into local waterways, installation of flow meters and high-level indicators at all PRASA facilities, improvements to sampling locations, capacity evaluations at over 50 facilities, implementation of an island-wide preventive maintenance program and facility operator training. In addition, PRASA will set aside \$2.2 million to design and construct an aeration system that will increase oxygen levels in Lake Toa Vaca or both Lake Toa Vaca and Lake Cidra. This project, when implemented, will enhance the condition of the aquatic ecosystem and restore the water quality of the lakes.