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Date: Thu, 17 Feb 2005 05:33:34 -0800 (PST)

From: "CORALations" <coralations@yahoo.com> [Add to Address Book](#)

Subject: Attention Christian Molinar

To: cmolinari@bnamericas.com

Dear Christain:

This is an excellent editorial, but I would like to clarify some statements attributed WWTP with ocean outfall. These plants have terrible compliance record to even p in spirit this violates the US Clean Water Act, technically have been given 20 year compliance to secondary removal standards. This decision was made at around t brought to the attention of the U.S. Executive Coral Reef Task Force that EPA hac plants for over a decade. These plants were discharging in some case for over a treatment. Technically what makes the discharge illegal, is the non-compliance o out of the pipe water quality analysis.

Given your audience I need to clarify what was written as a quote regarding susta that PRASA and EPA rely on standard industrial information regarding the cost of terciary plants, without considering costs of re-tooling existing plants (i.e. from adv are some innoculators being used that we understand are showing some success chlorine. It is the bacteria eating the wastes that require oxygenation, they do not

Many thanks,

"BNamericas.com" <info@bnamericas.com> wrote:



Email to a Friend

Christian Molinari (cmolinari@bnamericas.com) recommends you read the News Americas.

Personal message from **Christian Molinari: Good morning MaryAnn. As I story I wrote up after our conversation. I was able to contact people in EPA) as well to get their side of the story. I hope you like the article. Sa**

Title: Environmentalists sue AAA over sewage discharge - Puerto Rico

Date: Wednesday, February 16, 2005 17:19 (GMT-0400)

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Environmentalists sue AAA over sewage discharge - Puerto Rico

Wednesday, February 16, 2005 17:19 (GMT-0400)

(BNamericas.com) Environmental organizations ALS and Coralations have filed a lawsuit against Puerto Rico's (PR) aqueduct and sewerage authority (AAA), Coralations director said on BNamericas.

"Together with the American Littoral Society [ALS], we filed suit under [the US Clean Water Act] to stop discharging sewage into the reefs" on PR's coastline, she said, confiding in the press.

Coralations - an organization formed to protect coral reef - charges the AAA with discharging sewage emission pipes from six primary treatment plants.

"The AAA is in violation of discharge levels, which not only affects the reef but also makes it difficult to make their living off of the coastline," she said.

The PR unit of the US environmental protection agency (EPA) has requested the AAA to build a wastewater treatment plant for discharges into Ponce bay. However, the AAA has not done so. EPA is evaluating public commentary and studies submitted to it on the matter. AAA, EPA Puerto Rico director Carl Soderberg told BNamericas.

At the same time, the EPA needs to be more aggressive and is reacting only to the AAA's actions, according to Lucking. "In order to sue in a US federal court, you first need to show intent to sue," she said. "The EPA began acting on this when they received the AAA's intent to sue."

The EPA's Soderberg disagrees. "We only found out about this suit from the copy of the notice, as well as a copy of the lawsuit, but I personally have not seen a copy of the lawsuit to see what it is about, we cannot take any actions."

AAA'S DEFENSE

"We are not in violation of any law," the director of the AAA's fulfillment area said. "Sewage is first treated and then sent to deepwater emission pipes, to depth of 100 feet."

Some of the emission pipes have experienced fissures, Rivera said. "But we have contacted the best companies around the world to fix those leaks, and that takes time. The first

company and the second is in the process of being repaired by a Canadian

Further, the AAA takes monthly samples of the seawater in the area of the w found no impact at all," she said.

The EPA's Soderberg agrees the AAA is not breaking the law with primary d "The Clean Water Act of 1977 establishes a mechanism for dispensing wast primary treatment and cannot have untreated industrial discharge."

The issue is with the leaks along the deepwater sewage emission pipes, he

The AAA contends that it carries out advanced primary treatment with polym receives must arrive pre-treated to its plant, Rivera said.

POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

The environmentalist groups are eager to work together with the EPA in defi means for treating wastewater more effectively, Coralation's Lucking said.

"There are easier and cheaper ways to treat the sewage rather than installin treatment plant," she said. "You can re-tool the primary plant and use bacter

"Reports say we have lost 80% of the live coral coverage [worldwide] over tf something to worry about," Lucking added.

The EPA expects to come to a decision on the AAA's possible secondary tre months.

By Christian Molinari

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