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**CORALations and American Littoral Society file Clean Water Act citizen's suit  
against Puerto Rico Aqueduct and Sewer Authority.**

**DATE: February 14, 2005**

CORALations and the American Littoral Society file a citizen's suit today against the Puerto Rico Aqueduct and Sewer Authority (PRASA) for egregious discharge violations at the Ponce Regional Waste Water Treatment Plant. [Attachment A] With the help of the Mid-Atlantic Environmental Law Center and local attorney Jane Becker Whitacker, Esq., these citizens are taking action to protect pollution sensitive coral reefs. The claim is based on violations demonstrated empirically in the monthly reports submitted by PRASA to the United States Environmental Protection (EPA) agency. The suit attempts to force government to protect human health and the environment as required by law. The discharge tube at Ponce has been leaking for years and Mary Ann Lucking, director of CORALations- a Caribbean coral reef conservation organization, says locals have told her they call the pluming black waters "El Monstruo del Mar."

Lucking continues:

"As pollution sensitive corals now reach an unprecedented 80% decline throughout the Caribbean, the government of Puerto Rico continues to rely on their coastal waters as a toilet. It's a great disappointment to us that EPA has not aggressively worked with local government to find equitable solutions to bring this and other large municipal plants up to even 30 year old Clean Water Act removal standards. Globally, coral reefs are critical to maintaining a stable atmosphere on our increasingly more threatened planet. Locally, the culture of many of the coastal communities of Puerto Rico is inexorably connected to these coral reefs. The Caribbean poet Derek Walcott said it best in his Nobel acceptance speech:

**A morning could come in which governments might ask what happened not  
merely to the forests and the bays, but to a whole people.**

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