## A Resolution

## Requesting the Georgia Environmental Protection Division to Timely Publish Pollution Spill Reports

WHEREAS, clean water is a basic right of all Georgia citizens and a basic mission of the Georgia Water Coalition and all its partners; and

WHEREAS, pollution spills unknown to the public could represent public health hazards; and

**WHEREAS**, pollution spills unknown to the public cannot trigger further water quality monitoring by entities such as Georgia Water Coalition partners to detect public health hazards and other potential effects; and

**WHEREAS**, there are thousands of National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits for entities in the state of Georgia; and

**WHEREAS**, that is too many permit holders for it to be practical for any private entity to poll all of them for spill reports, even weekly, much less daily, even in a single watershed; and

**WHEREAS**, Georgia NPDES permits require the permit holders to timely inform the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (GA-EPD) of spills at least of certain sizes; and

**WHEREAS**, the GA-EPD has received more than four thousand reports of pollution spills since the beginning of the year 2015; and

WHEREAS, many of those spills are below permit thresholds requiring public notification; and

WHEREAS, many if not most of those spills have not been reported to the public; and

WHEREAS, it is in the public interest for the public to know of point sources of pollution in our waters; and

**WHEREAS**, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) publishes spill reports on its website the same day it receives them, in a spreadsheet, with signup for email alerts, plus an online interactive map of spills for the past thirty days; see <u>prodeny.dep.state.fl.us/DepPNP/reports/viewIncidentDetails</u>; and

**WHEREAS**, the Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM) provides online signup for email alerts of spills the same day ADEM receives them; see <u>adem.alabama.gov</u>; and

**WHEREAS**, the Atlanta office of GA-EPD will return a spreadsheet of spills it has received in response to a Georgia Open Records Act (GORA) request; see <a href="http://www.net/?p=45934">http://www.net/?p=45934</a>; and

**WHEREAS**, publishing that spreadsheet or one like it daily should require little extra work or expense by GA-EPD while providing great value to the public; and

**WHEREAS**, adding an email notification system should be possible and not difficult, for example by slight adaptation of how either Florida or Alabama does it; and

WHEREAS, both Florida and Alabama started publishing spill reports the same day they receive them without or before any law was passed requiring such action; and

**WHEREAS**, nonetheless the eventual Florida Statute 403.077 could be of use as a model; see <a href="http://wwwls.net/?p=37541">http://wwwls.net/?p=37541</a>; and

WHEREAS, customer satisfaction of GA-EPD's most basic and populous customers, the people of Georgia, would benefit by GA-EPD deciding to publish spill reports the same day it receives them; and

WHEREAS, there is great concern downstream in Florida about Georgia spills, especially that Georgia permit holders are not informing the public of all spills; and;

**WHEREAS**, timely spill publication by GA-EPD would also be of great benefit to the people of the neighboring state of Florida:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the undersigned organizations request the Georgia Environmental Protection Division:

1. To publish spill reports the same day it receives them, online, on its website, in a spreadsheet, and;

S. Gordon Rogers,

Flint Riverkeeper 2018-09-29

- 2. To provide online email signup for receipt of alerts of spills the same day they occur, and;
- 3. To consider, without delaying 1 and 2 above, adding an online interactive map of recent spills...

PASSED AND ADOPTED BY THE UNDERSIGNED ORGANIZATIONS, this \_29th\_ day of October 2018 or on a date as noted by an individual signature.

John S. Quarterman, Suwannee Riverkeeper, WWALS Watershed Coalition, 2018-09-29

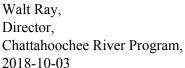


Jesse Demonbreun-Chapman, Executive Director & Riverkeeper, Coosa River Basin Initiative,

CHATTOOGA

Dana Skelton, Executive Director Georgia River Network, 2018-10-01

Jennette Gayer, Director, Environment Georgia, 2018-10-01



Mark J. Wilson, Vice Chairman, Yellow River Water Trail.

Laura Early, **Executive Director** and Riverkeeper, Satilla Riverkeeper, 2018-10-08

2018-10-03

Jen Lomberk. Matanzas Riverkeeper, 2018-10-17

Margaret Tolbert, Founder, Aguiferious, 2018-10-21

Whitey Markle, Chair, Suwannee-St. Johns Group, Sierra Club Florida 2018-10-26





PUBLIC LAND

Janet Pearson, Peter Norris. President. Lake Oconee Water Watch, 2018-10-03









2018-10-01

Nicole Hayler, Director, Chattooga Conservancy, 2018-10-02



Rachael Thompson, Project Manager, Glynn Environmental Coalition, 2018-10-03

President, Upper Oconee Watershed Network, 2018-10-04



Margaret Tyson, Chair, Ochlockonee River Water Trail. 2018-10-08

Jacqueline Echols, President, South River Watershed Alliance, 2018-10-08







Michael Roth, President, Our Santa Fe River, 2018-10-25

Bill Richards, Executive Director, Paddle Florida, 2018-10-30



**Sign here**: http://wwals.net/?p=46767#sign

Megan Desrosiers, CEO, One Hundred Miles, 2018-11-11



Tom D. Jones, Chapter President, Greater Atlanta, Izaak Walton League of America, 2018-11-12



Amy Lanclos, Board Chair, Greater Apalachee River Community, 2018-11-12



April Lipscomb, Staff Attorney, 2018-11-14, Southern Environmental Law Center (SELC)



Nikki Belmonte, Executive Director Atlanta Audubon Society, 2018-12-04



Peggy Riggins, President, No Ash At All — Wayne County, 2018-12-07



Elvin HIlyer, Chair, Water Issues, Lumpkin Coalition, 2018-11-12

## Lumpkin Coalition

Ellen Forbus, Board member, Broad River Watershed Association, 2018-11-12



Damon L. Mullin, Interim Riverkeeper, Executive Director, Ogeechee Riverkeeper, 2018-11-14



Claire Cox, President, 2018-12-03

## Georgia Women

(And Those Who Stand With Us)

Phillip Hodges, Treasurer, 2018-12-04



**Connect. Support. Your River. Your Park.** 

Sign here: http://wwals.net/?p=46767#sign