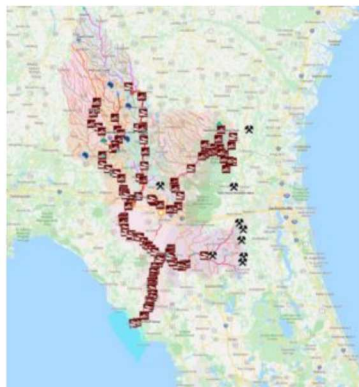


March 30, 2020

To: Mary S. Walker, Regional Administrator <walker.mary@epa.gov>
Jeaneanne Gettle, Director, Water Division, <gettle.jeaneanne@epa.gov>
Blake Ashbee, Chief of Staff <ashbee.blake@epa.gov>,
Carol Kemker, Director, Enforcement & Compliance Assurance Division
<kemker.carol@epa.gov>
Region 4, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

Cc: Gregory J. Strong, Director, Northeast Division <Greg.Strong@dep.state.fl.us>
Noah Valenstein, Director <Noah.Valenstein@dep.state.fl.us>
Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP)



Col. Daniel Hibner, Commander, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Savannah District
Attention: Ms. Holly Ross, holly.a.ross@usace.army.mil,
CESAS-SpecialProjects@usace.army.mil
1104 North Westover Boulevard, Suite 9, Albany, Georgia 31707

Stephen Wiedl, Wetlands Unit, stephen.wiedl@dnr.ga.gov
Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Environmental Protection Division,
Water Protection Branch, 7 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive, Atlanta, GA 30334

Re: Applicant: **Twin Pines Minerals, LLC**, Application Number: **SAS-2018-00554**

Dear Administrator Walker and Director Gettle,

Thank you for your two comment letters to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), raising extensive and serious concerns about the first permit application by Twin Pines Minerals, LLC (TPM), of Birmingham, Alabama. TPM retracted its first application, but applied again, as announced by USACE in a Public Notice of March 13, 2020, using the same Application Number: **SAS-2018-00554**.

Suwannee Riverkeeper for WWALS Watershed Coalition (WWALS) brings to the attention of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) that the rule under which USACE is reviewing this Application, 33 CFR § 325.2, states (b):

“If EPA determines that the proposed discharge may affect the quality of the waters of any state other than the state in which the discharge will originate, it will so notify such other state, the district engineer, and the applicant ...such state has 60 days from receipt of EPA's notice to determine if the proposed discharge will affect the quality of its waters so as to violate any water quality requirement in such state, to notify EPA and the district engineer in writing of its objection to permit issuance, and to request a public hearing.”

As your second EPA letter of October 3, 2019, pointed out, referring to the first EPA letter of September 12, 2019:

The letter outlined the EPA's concerns and recommendations about the project's potential impacts on freshwater wetlands located in the project area and potential secondary impacts to the adjacent Okefenokee NWR (see enclosed letter).

To date, the EPA has received no additional information from the Corps to address these concerns. Based on the limited information made available, pursuant to Part IV, paragraph (3)(b) of the 1992 Clean Water Act Section 404(q) Memorandum of Agreement between the EPA and the Department of the Army, the EPA finds that the proposed project will have a substantial and unacceptable

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WWALS is an IRS 501(c)(3)
nonprofit charity est. June 2012

WWALS Watershed Coalition advocates for conservation and stewardship of the Withlacoochee, Willacoochee, Alapaha, Little, Santa Fe, and Suwannee River watersheds in south Georgia and north Florida through education, awareness, environmental monitoring, and citizen activities.

