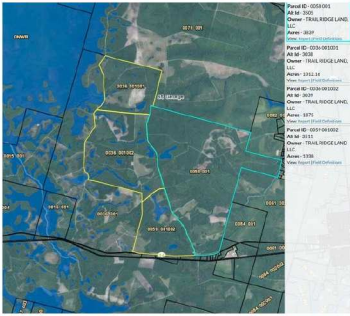
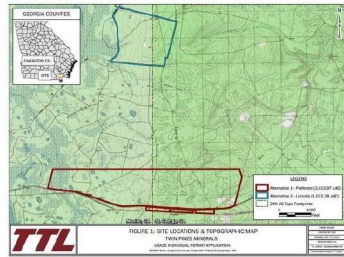




TPM mine site with equipment on it, and Okefenokee NWR in the distance in upper left, 2020-11-06 <https://wwals.net/?p=54099>



TPM mine lands ever-closer to the Okefenokee on the northwest, with the TIAA tract between it and the Swamp; Charlton County Tax Assessors. <https://wwals.net/?p=52533>



TPM map overlapping TIAA site, and showing north TPM tract right next to the Swamp. <https://wwals.net/?p=52533>



WWALS paddlers at Mimies Lake platform, Okefenokee NWR, 2020-11-07 <https://wwals.net/?p=54142>

bottom sediment.” <https://doi.org/10.3133/pp1802> Mining would also stir up mercury deposited by air from coal power plants. <https://wwals.net/?p=50140#mercury> Yet Twin Pines has no plan to prevent wastewater spills during hurricanes. A presidential order the day after that USGS report required “a plan to improve the topographic, geologic, and geophysical mapping of the United States and make the resulting data and metadata electronically accessible...”

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/presidential-executive-order-federal-strategy-ensure-secure-reliable-supplies-critical-minerals/> Where is TPM’s map of percentages of these slimes in all intended mining areas, with comparisons to percentages on other sites?

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, responding to an inquiry by Senator Perdue, noted that after the initial demonstration site, mining would move closer to the Swamp, ending up within 400 feet of the Swamp and half a mile from the Refuge. <https://wwals.net/?p=52533>

Private property rights are also at risk. TPM on its Corps and Georgia mining applications claimed as part of its project land owned by TIAA, the Fortune 100 financial services company. TPM only retracted that claim after TIAA complained. TPM then said it was negotiating with TIAA, which TIAA denies. Apparently penalties for false application could be up to a \$10,000 fine or five years in prison.

<https://www.savannahnow.com/news/20200926/regulators-seek-no-remedy-for-false-claims-on-okefenokee-mining-permit-request>

Steve Ingle, president of Twin Pines Minerals, was also behind the biomass plant in Franklin County with air pollution so bad you signed a law prohibiting burning of railroad ties. It also caused light and noise pollution and a massive fish kill. <https://wwals.net/?p=53931> According to the Washington Post, November 25, 2020, “The smell will sometimes get in our house, it gives me a headache and I cough more, it hurts my wife’s chest and burns her eyes,” wrote Ted Fowler, a resident of Colbert, Ga. “If GRP continues burning railroad ties our lives will be shortened if not already shortened.”

https://www.washingtonpost.com/climate-environment/trump-rule-eases-effort-to-strip-mine-near-okefenokee-swamp/2020/11/25/84ed10ba-229a-11eb-a688-5298ad5d580a_story.html

Ingle and TPM have experimented more than enough already with our air and waters. They should not be permitted to do so again, especially not next to the Okefenokee Swamp.

The Okefenokee Swamp is of special concern to Suwannee Riverkeeper, since almost all of the Okefenokee Wilderness Area Canoe Trails that people paddle to fish and to see birds, alligators, bears, and cypress trees, are in the Suwannee River Basin. We just camped at Floyd’s Island a few weeks ago. <https://wwals.net/?p=54142> Those animals and plants and the Swamp and the Suwannee and the Aquifer cannot speak for themselves, so we write to you for them, as well as in support of the economy of Georgia (and Florida).

I urge you and the state of Georgia to thoroughly examine the permit applications from Twin Pines Minerals, LLC. I believe the state will find the evidence supports rejecting those permits.

For the rivers and the aquifer,

John S. Quarterman
Suwannee RIVERKEEPER®
/s

WWALS Watershed Coalition, Inc.
contact@suwanneeriverkeeper.org
www.suwanneeriverkeeper.org