

## **Mine expansion plans**

What are Nutrien's plans for further expansion of the mine, now that it has already expanded east across Woodpecker Route, almost at the Suwannee River? Does Nutrien plan to expand into Columbia County? For why that would be a bad idea, see: Nutrien (PCS) mining phosphate and water in Hamilton County and soon in Columbia County? 2018-07-11. <https://wwals.net/?p=45040> Mining water withdrawals in Columbia County would affect the Floridan Aquifer under Hamilton County, as would any effects on Falling Creek, Deep Creek, or other creeks that flow into the Suwannee River, along with any mining wastewater that got into those creeks.

Or does Nutrien plan to follow the phosphate deposits north across the state line into Echols County, Georgia? That would also affect Hamilton County, being upstream on the Suwannee River and still above the same Floridan Aquifer.

Will we learn of such mining expansion next year through a permit application to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, as happened with expansion in 2019? <https://wwals.net/?p=50092>

If Nutrien already has plans to file such an application, let everyone hear about it now.

If Nutrien has no such expansion plans, let them say so in the April 18th Public Hearing.

## **Summary of requests**

1. I request that Hamilton BOCC require Nutrien not to release clay or any other mining effluent into Lake 14 (also known as Proposed SA14), or any other recreational lake, due to potential adverse effects on local businesses such as Bienville Plantation, on bed tax income to the county, on wildlife, and on creeks and the Suwannee River and the Floridan Aquifer.
2. I request that Hamilton County put Nutrien's reports (whether annual, monthly, or other) online on the county's website. Or, even better, Hamilton BOCC can require Nutrien to put the reports on Nutrien's own website at Nutrien's expense.
3. I request that Hamilton BOCC require Nutrien to pay for independent third-party water quality monitoring of lakes inside the mining area or being used for mining waste, as well as of any creeks coming out of active or reclaimed mining areas, including but not limited to Swift Creek, Camp Branch, Long Branch, Roaring Creek, Hogans Branch, and of the Suwannee River both upstream, for example at Roline Boat Ramp, and downstream, for example at Suwannee Springs Launch.
  - a. If such monitoring of lakes is not possible for whatever reasons, monitoring of creeks and the Suwannee River should be possible and required. There is precedent for this request in the \$70,000 and \$16,480 Nestlé and Packaging Corporation of America have been paying annually for Withlacoochee River water quality monitoring.
  - b. Monitoring data should be readily available to all interested parties.