

Such wastewater spills from TiO<sub>2</sub> mines on Trail Ridge in Florida still occur, as recently as the end of January 2024.<sup>6</sup> According to the report,

*“Water from reclamation cell was not contained and turbid water left the permitted facility and entered adjacent wetland. This water does not contain any hazardous materials. upon discovery, dozers reinforced the berm to contain water. Monitoring and assessment ini”*

The report breaks off in the middle of a word, so we do not know more about the monitoring and assessment. However, we do know the pond drains into the Santa Fe River, which is a tributary of the Suwannee River. The pond is owned by North Florida Land Trust, whose website says, “North Florida Land Trust is a non-profit organization committed to protecting and preserving our region’s irreplaceable natural beauty.” To get to the pond from the mine site, the wastewater traversed land owned by the Suwannee River Water Management District, a Florida state agency.

Chemours operates five such mines in Florida and two in Georgia. Chemours has decades of experience in operating such mines. This January 2024 wastewater spill was from Chemours’ newest Florida TiO<sub>2</sub> mine, approved in 2019 by Bradford County, Florida.<sup>7</sup>

- **Since even a TiO<sub>2</sub> mine operator with decades of experience in many mines on Trail Ridge still has wastewater spills, including one only a few months ago that traversed state-owned and private land, why should permits be issued to a company with no experience in such mining, which also proposes to use multiple untried techniques such as draglines?**

## Slimes

In the WWALS 2019 comment to USACE and GA-EPD about this mine site,<sup>8</sup> we raised the issue of slimes, quoting from a USGS publication:<sup>9</sup>

*“Mining and milling methods for heavy-mineral sand deposits involve physical separation of a bulk concentrate and quartz-rich tailings by mechanical means, typically magnetic or electrostatic methods or density separation. During further concentration, the mineral-bearing sand fraction is separated from finer textured slimes (clays, silts, very fine sand), which is mixed with a flocculent to aid settling, and then pumped back as a slurry into a reclamation pit (Daniels and others, 2003).*

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<sup>6</sup> Spill from Chemours Trail Ridge South TiO<sub>2</sub> mine SE of Starke, FL 2024-01-30, WWALS, January 31, 2024, <https://wwals.net/?p=64066> data from FDEP daily Pollution Notice <https://prodenv.dep.state.fl.us/DepPNP/reports/viewIncidentDetails?page=1>

<sup>7</sup> Videos: Chemours titanium mine expansion, Bradford BOCC 2019-10-17, WWALS, October 19, 2019, <https://wwals.net/?p=50427>

<sup>8</sup> Deny or EIS, titanium mining near Okefenokee Swamp –Suwannee Riverkeeper for WWALS 2019-09-12, WWALS, September 19, 2019, <https://wwals.net/?p=50140>

<sup>9</sup> **Titanium**, Professional Paper 1802- T, **By:** Laurel G. Woodruff, George M. Bedinger, and Nadine M. Piatak, **Edited by:** Klaus J. Schulz, John H. DeYoung, Jr., Robert R. Seal, and Dwight C. Bradley, <https://doi.org/10.3133/pp1802T> Chapter T of Critical mineral resources of the United States—Economic and environmental geology and prospects for future supply, USGS, Professional Paper 1802, **Edited by:** Klaus J. Schulz, John H. DeYoung, Jr., Robert R. Seal, and Dwight C. Bradley, 19 December 2017, <https://doi.org/10.3133/pp1802>