



Part of the Okefenokee Swamp is in Florida, and the Swamp is the headwaters of both the St. Marys River, which forms part of the border between Georgia and Florida, and of the Suwannee River, which flows through Florida to the Gulf of Mexico, and is the subject of the Florida State Song. This means that any risks posed by the proposed mine to the Okefenokee could have downstream impacts on the quality and quantity of the waters of the state of Florida, including the Floridan Aquifer, which is the main source of water for drinking, agriculture, and industry for all of south Georgia and most of Florida.

### Mining Land Use Plan Summary

The Mining Land Use Plan Summary says, "No process water will be discharged from the site."<sup>2</sup> This is hard to believe, since TPM is under a Florida Consent Order for spilling wastewater and other infractions at two TiO<sub>2</sub> mine sites in north Florida.<sup>8</sup>

The people behind TPM also started two biomass plants in north Georgia,<sup>9</sup> one of which caused a massive fish kill,<sup>10</sup> and both of which caused the state to pass a law to stop them burning railroad ties.<sup>11</sup> TPM proposes to use multiple experimental techniques to minimize environmental impacts including draglines, evaporators, and placing a layer of bentonite horizontally to name a few.

TPM has a bad environmental track record, which does not indicate that they can do what they are saying without harming the surrounding ecosystem. This mine is not worth risking the swamp and its rivers or underground waters.

That Summary adds, "To reduce the amount of groundwater withdrawn, all process water will be returned to the basin so that it can be continually recycled after use."<sup>12</sup> And that Summary says, "Evaporators are mobile and will be relocated as necessary to control water in Ponds M1 – M4. The floating platforms for the 167 evaporator units displace a total of 0.022 MG of water."<sup>13</sup> Which is it? All process water will be recycled? Or some of it will be evaporated?