

Five years later (2023)

Did county staff get trained to navigate Oculus to find and evaluate Nutrien's water quality data?

And did county staff request a monthly report instead or in addition to Oculus?

Reports need to be online

It appears that all of Nutrien's reports to the Planning and Zoning Board (PNZ) are in electronic form, as requested back in 2018. <https://wwals.net/?p=61688>

Although after getting the first 100 pages via email, I had to go to Jasper to get the rest on a USB stick. <https://wwals.net/?p=61706> While Jasper is not far for most people in Hamilton County, Nutrien's mining operations are of interest to people farther away, such as in Union and Bradford Counties, where HPS II recently withdrew its phosphate mining application, yet many people expect to see a new application later. It is also interesting as a precedent for other phosphate mines in Florida and elsewhere.

So I request again that Hamilton County put Nutrien's reports 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.

Independent third-party water quality monitoring

Back in 2018 I asked whether it would be possible for some independent third party water quality monitoring at water ponds on the mine site. PCS answered that it would be difficult due to the whole site being a hard hat area, and certification being required, but they would inquire. <https://wwals.net/?p=41356> I never heard an answer.

I ask again for independent third-party monitoring of water ponds on the mine site.

And this time I also ask for something that does not require hard hats: independent third-party monitoring 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.

There is precedent in the SRWMD Board agenda for August 13, 2019:

<https://wwals.net/?p=49863>

“Staff recommends the Governing Board authorize the Executive Director to modify and extend the current revenue contract with Nestlé Waters North America beginning October 1, 2019 through the end of the existing permit on May 6, 2028, with annual payment to the District of \$70,000 for monitoring of the Withlacoochee River and Madison Blue Spring.”

“Nestlé Waters North America and Packaging Corporation of America will provide \$70,000 and \$16,480, respectively, toward Withlacoochee River monitoring in this JFA.”

If Nestlé and PCA can pay annually to fund water quality monitoring, so can Nutrien. I ask the Hamilton BOCC to require such funding and such monitoring.