

“Due to the significant rain event associated with Hurricane Irma, Stormwater and process water was released from the emergency spillways at 4 of the ponds on the site (turbid water – no hazardous materials or chemicals). Discharges from the emergency spillways ceased over the course of a few days. , , Additionally, turbid water was released from NPDES point (D001). Due to high winds, sediment was not able to be settled from the water column.”

These are Chemours mine sites on which Twin Pines Minerals (TPM) was processing tailings.

- **Since rain and high winds from Hurricane Irma caused wastewater release for days and failure to settle sediment in these incidents on Trail Ridge in Florida, why should we expect the same problem not to happen during hurricanes on Trail Ridge in Georgia, near the Okefenokee Swamp?**

In 2019, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP), issued a Consent Order on Chemours, involving TPM, because TPM was processing tailings on Chemours TiO₂ mine sites on Trail Ridge.⁵ The Consent Order cited wastewater releases, failure to collect required water quality samples, and failure to report wastewater quality. Here are some excerpts from that Consent Order:

6) A permit modification for Trailridge Facility to include Twin Pines in the Industrial Wastewater permit was not obtained prior to beginning operation.

3) Twin Pines silt fence was overwhelmed with sand; process water and tailings fill deposited in a wetland without permit authorization;

d) Twin Pines is currently included in the Trailridge permit by reference and is being inspected regularly;

e) Twin Pines Mitigation Plan: Within ninety (90) days of the effective date of this Order, Respondent shall provide mitigation to offset the relative functional wetland losses caused by the fill from the Twin Pines area that was deposited into the adjacent wetland without permit authorization.

- **Since a TPM silt fence was overwhelmed with sand in this case in Florida, why should we expect the same not to happen in Georgia, near the Okefenokee Swamp, especially during hurricanes?**
- **Since TPM did not collect or report water quality samples in this case in Florida, why should we expect them to do so in Georgia, near the Okefenokee Swamp?**

⁵ Consent Order, FDEP v. Chemours involving Twin Pines Minerals 2019-02-07, <https://wwals.net/?p=49898>