

# TENNESSEE RIVERKEEPER®



*Spring 2017 membership update*

## TENNESSEE RIVERKEEPER v. 3M UPDATE

**March 2017** - Tennessee Riverkeeper filed a notice of their intent to sue Toray Fluorofibers, Daikin America, Morgan County, and Dyneon for PFC pollution to add them to the Riverkeeper v. 3M lawsuit.

**February 2017** - U.S. District Judge Abdul Kallon, ruled that Riverkeeper's lawsuit can move forward and denied 3M and the defendants motion to dismiss the PFC pollution lawsuit. In their denied motions to dismiss, the defendants argued that they were already acting with the Alabama Department of Environmental Management to clean up some of the contaminated sites along the Tennessee River and that the chemicals in question -- perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctyl sulfonate (PFOS) -- did not fit the definition of hazardous materials in the RCRA.

David Whiteside said: *"After nearly five decades of 3M's pollution of the Tennessee River, where no one has held the defendants accountable, Riverkeeper needed to act to protect this precious resource and all the wildlife and restore justice to the hundreds of thousands of people who rely upon her waters everyday. We don't mind 3M making profitable products - but, we cannot tolerate the defendants putting profit ahead of*



*Tennessee Riverkeeper claims groundwater testing from the 3M facility in Decatur showed concentrations of PFOA as high as 4,980 parts per billion and PFOS as high as 3,890 parts per billion, thousands of times higher than the EPA advisory threshold.*

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## SEWAGE OVERFLOWS IN THE SHOALS



*L to R: Charles Rose, David Cope, Mark Martin, and David Whiteside on patrol in the Shoals.*

MUSCLE SHOALS, AL — Tennessee Riverkeeper has notified the Muscle Shoals Utilities Board and the City of Tusculumbia, Department of Utilities, that it intends to file a lawsuit for violations of the Clean Water Act. This action is based on Riverkeeper's discovery that these two waste water treatment plants have together amassed over **35 Sanitary Sewer Overflow incidences** since January 2012. These overflows have released at least 25,000 gallons of illegal sewage discharges into public waterways.

"When sewage is discharged into surface water it carries with it bacteria and pathogens that can be a threat to drinking water and public health. Nobody wants sewage pollution contaminating their rivers and streams," said David Whiteside, Founder and Executive

Director of Tennessee Riverkeeper. "It is the 21st century, Alabamians deserve the reasonable expectation that human waste will be treated safely. It is a law of biology that people need clean water to live. This is a non-partisan issue, no one wants sewage in their water, no matter how they vote."

Tennessee Riverkeeper is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt charitable organization.

