



TENNESSEE RIVERKEEPER®

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TENNESSEE RIVERKEEPER ADDRESSES SEWAGE IN MUSCLE SHOALS AND TUSCUMBIA

MUSCLE SHOALS, AL — Tennessee Riverkeeper has notified the Muscle Shoals Utilities Board and the City of Tuscumbia, Department of Utilities, that at the end of the 60 day statutory notice period, it intends to file a lawsuit in Federal District Court against the corporation for violations of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, also known as 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 of the Clean Water Act and its NPDES permit since January 2012. These overflows have released at least 25,000 gallons of illegal sewage discharges into public waterways. These sewage related pollution violations were being received by Pond Creek and Spring Creek, respectively, both tributaries of the Pickwick Reservoir of the Tennessee River, and also by the Tennessee River itself.

“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.”

Muscle Shoals was issued NPDES permit number AL0024180 which authorizes the permit holder to discharge into Pond Creek, subject to stated discharge limitations and monitoring requirements. Tuscumbia was issued NPDES permit number AL0057100 which authorizes the permit holder to discharge into Spring Creek and the Pickwick Reservoir of the Tennessee River, subject to stated discharge limitations and monitoring requirements.

“There are illegal sewage violations across the state of Alabama. Various Riverkeeper organizations across ‘The River State’ have found illegal sewage problems, from Muscle Shoals and Tuscumbia to Stevenson and Scottsboro in the Tennessee Valley, Northport in the Black Warrior watershed, Uniontown in the Cahaba watershed, Oxford in the Coosa basin, and Dothan and Elba in Southeast Alabama,” Whiteside added. “This is part of Riverkeeper’s ongoing campaign to clean up failing sewage treatment plants. We have found that many municipalities just do not make the investment of time and money required to keep their treatment plants updated, maintained, and in compliance with state and federal laws and regulations. Since we began our campaign, we have seen a vast reduction in the number and volume of reported violations. Tennessee Riverkeeper will continue until all treatment facilities, no matter how small, have come into compliance with their permits and the law.”

Scientific data and headlines in the news about water quality prove that Alabamians have been let down by elected leaders. Environmental protection has been politicized by our leaders who appear unconcerned about the health, safety, and wellbeing of the people. Clean water is a non-partisan issue and every citizen deserves access to safe drinking water from a public supply. When so-called public servants stand against their citizens to defend illegal pollution, the Riverkeepers will dare to defend our rights.



Sewage overflows in entering Richland Creek in Nashville



Tennessee Riverkeeper urged waste treatment facilities provide to better public notifications when sewage spills and overflows occur.

DID YOU KNOW?

Aquatic Biodiversity!

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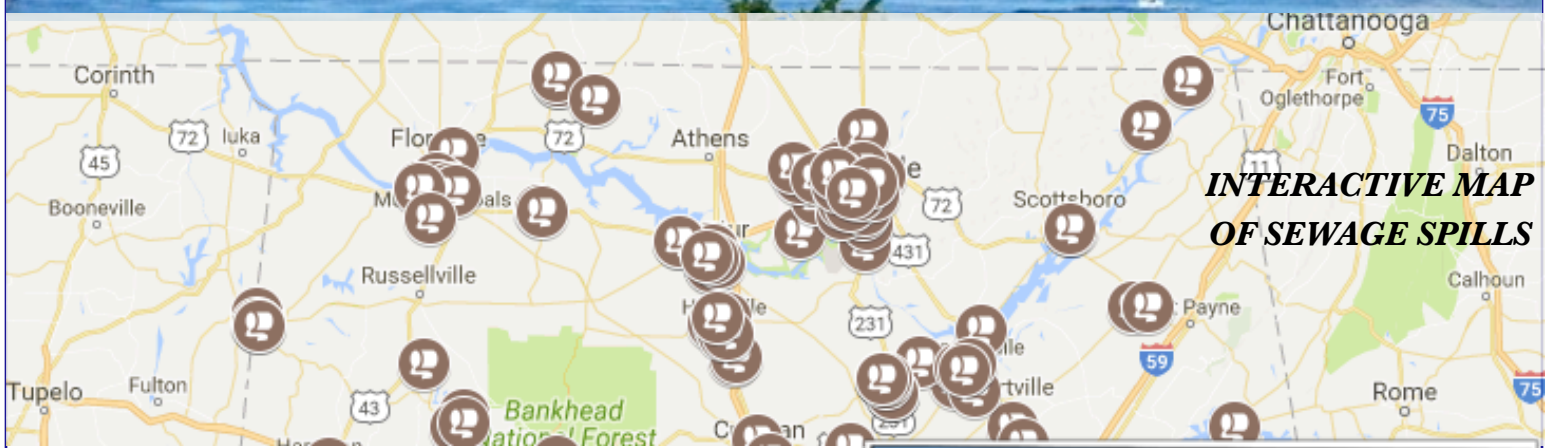
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RIVERKEEPER UPDATES



RIVERKEEPER v. 3M Co. PFC POLLUTION

DECATUR (AL) - A federal judge has denied motions to dismiss filed by 3M Company, BFI Waste Systems of Alabama, and the city of Decatur, Alabama regarding pollution from PFOS (Perfluorooctanesulfonic acid) and PFOA (Perfluorooctanoic acid) in the Wheeler Reservoir of the Tennessee River.

In March 2017, Tennessee Riverkeeper sent a notice of intent to sue to Toray Fluorofibers, Daikin America, Morgan County, and Dyneon for PFC pollution in the Wheeler Reservoir of the Tennessee River, to add these defendants to the Tennessee Riverkeeper v. 3M lawsuit. Tennessee Riverkeeper, with consent of the other parties to the case, has asked for and received a 90 day delay in the lawsuit in order to add additional defendants to the lawsuit.

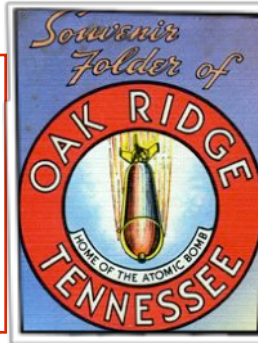
Tennessee Riverkeeper will stand up for America's citizens and the public water supply. We will not tolerate the defendants putting profit ahead of the health of people and the river," said David Whiteside, Executive Director of Tennessee Riverkeeper.



3M Company in Decatur

OAK RIDGE STP

OAK RIDGE (TN) - Tennessee Riverkeeper has given the City of Oak Ridge statutory notice of its intent to sue under the Clean Water Act for violations at the Oak Ridge Waste Water Treatment Plant. The Riverkeeper identified 251 sewage overflows which, since September, 2012, have dumped over 40 million gallons of raw sewage into East Fork Poplar Creek, Ernie's Creek, and other bodies of water. These waters are all Tennessee River tributaries.



INTERACTIVE SEWAGE MAP

ALABAMA - Eight Waterkeeper organizations and the Alabama Rivers Alliance have released an interactive map showing all of the sewage spills that were reported to the Alabama Department of Environmental Management during the 2016 calendar year.

The groups developed the map to educate the public and to make the case for better public notification of these spills. The map is an easy-to-use tool which allows the public to see what spills were reported in their neighborhoods, communities and favorite recreational waterways during 2016. The data underlying the map indicates that between 28.8 million gallons and 46.2 million gallons of sewage overflows were reported in 2016, not including the 9% of spills reported that did not include a volume estimate. The true number of sewage spills that occurred across Alabama in 2016 is even higher than the map indicates, as the data reported was incomplete and there were countless recurring spill locations which were not reported, as is required by law.

Top Stories

Federal judge denies 3M's motion to dismiss Tennessee Riverkeeper's lawsuit

A federal judge decided on Friday to allow a lawsuit filed against 3M Company, BFI Waste Systems of Alabama and the City of Decatur to proceed.

"We don't mind 3M making profitable products – but, we cannot tolerate the defendants putting profit ahead of the health of people, the environment, and our water," David Whiteside, Tennessee Riverkeeper's Founder and Executive Director, said.

The chemicals, known as PFOA (Perfluorooctanoic acid) and PFOS (Perfluorooctanesulfonic acid), can cause serious health problems, including cancer, according to Whiteside.



Whiteside discussing sewage on the WHNT-19 (ABC) News

OUR SUPPORTERS

David Cope

Tennessee Riverkeeper mourns the passing of David D. Cope of Florence, Alabama. Cope was a brilliant scientist, heroic public servant, and devoted Board member of Riverkeeper. He conducted hands-on research to expose the pollution of Cypress Creek from the nearby sanitary landfill. He led the charge in a federal court case to force state agencies to enforce regulations which protect this beautiful waterway. The monitoring of the landfill's impact on Cypress Creek was an ongoing cause to which David contributed countless hours of passionate effort.



L to R: Charles Rose, David Cope, Mark Martin and David Whiteside.

Railroad Earth, Farm Burger, Rising Appalachia

Special thanks to Farm Burger Huntsville, Railroad Earth, Marathon Music Works, Rising Appalachia, Flying Monkey Arts, and Mountain High Huntsville for their generous support of Riverkeeper in 2017.



Team Riverkeeper with Rising Appalachia Team Riverkeeper with Railroad Earth

EARTH DAY 2017

Tennessee Riverkeeper participated in Earth Day events in the month of April throughout the Cumberland and Tennessee River watersheds from: Muscle Shoals (AL), Huntsville (AL), Athens (AL), and Chattanooga (TN).



Earth Day 2017. L: in Muscle Shoals on April 8, 2017.
R: in Athens, AL on April 29, 2017

Earth Day 2017 in Nashville (TN) was rained out so Team Riverkeeper went on patrol documenting sewage and other illegal pollution discharges.



On pollution patrol in Nashville, TN on April 22, 2017

About TENNESSEE RIVERKEEPER

The mission of Tennessee Riverkeeper is to protect the Cumberland and Tennessee Rivers and the tributaries by enforcing environmental laws and educating the public. Our communities are all interconnected neighbors upstream and downstream and everyone needs clean water, whether you're black or white, rich or poor, Republican or Democrat. Riverkeeper advocates for the watershed to ensure that future generations will inherit safe, clean water in their communities.

Tennessee Riverkeeper monitors polluters and their pollution permits, responds to citizen complaints, and utilizes water sampling data to further

protect the Tennessee River and its tributaries. When the organization discovers illegal pollution, Riverkeeper will seek solutions, including enforcement of environmental laws.

For more info visit: www.TennesseeRiver.org





TENNESSEE RIVERKEEPER

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