



August 15, 2005

Black Warrior RIVERKEEPER® , Inc. filed Notice of Intent to Sue the East Walker County Waste Water Treatment Plant for 4,473 Clean Water Act Violations

Black Warrior Riverkeeper filed Notice of Intent to Sue the East Walker Sewer Authority on August 15, 2005 for illegal discharges into the Mulberry Fork of the Black Warrior River. The letter of intent to sue outlines 4,473 violations of the federal Clean Water Act in the past four years! These violations occurred at the East Walker County Wastewater Treatment Plant (W.W.T.P.) located on Old Sloss Road in Dora, Alabama. The sewer authority has violated its permit by exceeding discharge limitations for pollutants such as chlorine, Fecal Coliform, nitrogen and ammonia, from January 2001 to January 2005.

The discharges at the East Walker County WWTP degrade and threaten the waters of the United States in violation of the Clean Water Act and the Alabama Water Pollution Control Act. Black Warrior Riverkeeper Inc. intends to prosecute these violations in the appropriate judicial forum. The organization intends to file suit against the East Walker County Sewer Authority in federal district court 60 days from this notice. Riverkeeper will seek an injunction prohibiting East Walker County Sewer Authority from discharging pollutants and from operating in violation of the Clean Water Act and state law. Black Warrior Riverkeeper will also endeavor to have East Walker County Sewer Authority enjoined from engaging in the operation of a wastewater treatment plant at East Walker County WWTP if the cessation of operations is necessary to achieve compliance. Additionally, Black Warrior Riverkeeper will seek the imposition of civil penalties.

The Black Warrior Riverkeeper program advocates compliance with environmental laws. Our full-time Riverkeeper, Nelson Brooke, researches polluters, patrols the watershed, analyzes discharger's permits, and responds to citizen complaints. As a result of our patrols and research, the Black Warrior Riverkeeper organization has become aware of dozens of polluters who we know, or suspect, are breaking the law. When necessary, we enforce federal and state laws to bring polluters to justice by filing civil lawsuits.

The successful plaintiff in a Clean Water Act suit may recover its attorney fees and litigation expenses from the defendant. However, any civil penalties levied against the defendant are paid to the government, not to the plaintiff.

Black Warrior Riverkeeper monitors the Black Warrior River and its tributaries, taking reasonable steps to curtail illegal pollution. As citizen plaintiffs under the Clean Water Act, this organization acts to sue illegal polluters when ADEM turns a blind eye, as they so often do.

Water quality is important to everyone. Good water quality in Moundville means cleaner water for all of Alabama's citizens who live downstream. Black Warrior Riverkeeper is dedicated to the common good of cleaner water throughout the Black Warrior River and its tributaries.

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



FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Please refer to the attached 60-Day Letter of Intent to Sue...
OR Call or E-mail using the contact info below:

CONTACT:

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Riverkeeper is a registered trademark of Waterkeeper Alliance, Inc.

The mission of the Black Warrior RIVERKEEPER is to protect and restore the Black Warrior River and its tributaries.