



**For Immediate Release  
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**Public Hearing Set for Proposed Shepherd Bend Mine**

On Thursday, August 19th at 6:30pm, the Alabama Surface Mining Commission (ASMC) will host a public hearing about the proposed Shepherd Bend Mine. The meeting will take place at Beville State Community College (Sumiton Campus) - Building 1400. The Sumiton Campus is located in Sumiton, AL (Walker County) on Hwy. 78. The campus is a 30-minute drive northwest of Birmingham and is 15 minutes east of Jasper. Building 1400 is on the corner of State Street and College Street. From Hwy. 78 West, take a right onto State Street.

This ASMC public hearing is an opportunity for citizens to express their concerns about the proposed Shepherd Bend Mine permit. If issued, this permit will authorize strip mining for coal on Shepherd Bend along the Mulberry Fork of the Black Warrior River to the northwest of Birmingham and southwest of Dora and Sumiton. The total permit area for the mine is slated to be 1,773 acres. The location of Shepherd Bend's proposed operation, fewer than 800 feet from the Birmingham Water Works Board's Mulberry Fork drinking water intake, would likely result in mining-related pollutants traveling directly to the intake and to the BWWB's treatment facilities.

In the words of the BWWB, the proximity of a proposed mining operation to a major municipal water supply intake is "unprecedented" and "represents an incompatible use." 10 of the mine's 29 wastewater discharges would be upstream of the water source. The BWWB sent the ASMC a letter of opposition to the mine stating concerns with source water quality degradation, increased treatment costs, and decreased tap water quality. Not only will this mine pose a threat to our drinking water supply, but it will also threaten water quality, wildlife habitat, and the peaceful way of life residents aim to have along the river.

All who are concerned with the fate of our drinking water supply should plan on attending this important hearing to let the ASMC know that you oppose issuance of a coal mine permit at this location.

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Black Warrior Riverkeeper ([www.blackwarriorriver.org](http://www.blackwarriorriver.org)) is a citizen-based nonprofit environmental advocacy organization whose mission is to protect and restore the Black Warrior River and its tributaries. A proud member of Waterkeeper Alliance, Black Warrior Riverkeeper was the Alabama Environmental Council's 2007 Conservation Organization of the Year and the American Canoe Association's 2008 Green Paddle Award winner. Our staff Riverkeeper, Nelson Brooke, won the Alabama Rivers Alliance's 2010 River Hero Award. For more information call Nelson Brooke - Riverkeeper or Eva Dillard - Staff Attorney at (205) 458-0095.