



BIRMINGHAM
WATER WORKS

Media Advisory

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Birmingham Water Works appeals mining permit issued to Shepherd Bend

Board vows to protect public drinking water

(BIRMINGHAM, Ala. – November 21, 2012) – The Birmingham Water Works Board (BWVB) renewed its opposition today against strip mining by Shepherd Bend near its Mulberry water intake. *The BWVB is appealing the issuance of a permit for the Shepherd Bend Mine at the Alabama Surface Mining Commission (ASMC).* The hearing is set for November 28, 2012 at 9:00 a.m. before an administrative law judge in Walker County where the proposed mine is located.

The utility's appeals are as follows;

- 1. The Shepherd Bend permit, as issued, is not protective of our drinking water supply.*
- 2. This proposed mine is in close proximity to our Mulberry Intake and has the potential to discharge many contaminants that adversely affect the (raw) water quality.*
- 3. The contaminants that could potentially be discharged from the proposed mine are regulated by drinking water standards and have known potential health impacts.*
- 4. The responsibility that we have as a board to protecting our citizens' drinking water will never be compromised.*
- 5. Our commitment is to the many citizens and businesses that depend on us for this most precious resource for health, fire protection, job creation and daily use.*

“If you are a Birmingham Water Works Board customer, we want you to be reassured of our commitment in ensuring that your water quality is never compromised,” says Mac Underwood, General Manager.

“On November 28, 2012, the Birmingham Water Works will be defending the public’s right to safe drinking water and we hope all our customers will join us as one voice that says **NO TO HARMFUL CONTAMINANTS IN YOUR DRINKING WATER.**”

To hear current news on Shepherd Bend, please call this special hotline at (205) 288-1608 or visit the special section of our website titled “**Appeal Against Shepherd Bend Permit.**”

Founded in 1951, the Birmingham Water Works serves 600,000 people in Jefferson, Shelby, Blount, St. Clair and Walker counties. For more information about your Birmingham Water Works Board, please call us at (205) 244-4000 or visit our Web site at www.birminghamwaterworks.com.

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