

For Immediate Release:

June 21, 2022

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### **Black Warrior Riverkeeper Intends to Sue Warrior Met Coal and MRC-FG**

*Birmingham, AL* — Today, Black Warrior Riverkeeper filed a notice of intent to sue Warrior Met Coal and MRC-FG, LLC in federal court for discharging polluted wastewater from Mine No. 7 at locations that have not been permitted.

The unpermitted discharges from Mine No. 7's Slurry Impoundment No. 14 flow into an unnamed tributary that eventually feeds into Texas Creek, a tributary of Davis Creek, which flows into the Black Warrior River at Holt Lake in Tuscaloosa County. Black Warrior Riverkeeper filed the notice letter regarding the coal mine's failure to comply with the Clean Water Act and the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977.

“Davis Creek is a beautiful, free-flowing stream frequented by locals for swimming, fishing, and enjoyment,” said Nelson Brooke, Black Warrior Riverkeeper. “Unpermitted underground coal mine wastewater is not welcome in this beloved creek, which is already being polluted by Mine No. 7's permitted wastewater discharges. We honor the [50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Clean Water Act](#) of 1972 this year by holding polluters accountable through the Act's citizen lawsuit provisions.”

To address Mine No. 7's violations and ongoing pollution, Black Warrior Riverkeeper is seeking a halt to the unpermitted discharges, and any other appropriate measures by the companies to stop their violations of applicable environmental laws.

“Our objective in sending the notice letter today is to ensure that Mine No. 7 complies with the law, fixes their slurry impoundment and ends their unregulated discharges of pollutants to affected tributaries of the Black Warrior River,” said Eva Dillard, Staff Attorney for Black Warrior Riverkeeper.

Warrior Met Coal is a metallurgical coal mining company, which purchased several coal mines, including this one, out of Walter Energy's 2015 bankruptcy. United Mine Workers of America miners employed at Mine No. 7 have been off the job and waging a strike against the company for over a year due to disputes over wages and benefits they gave up to keep the mines open.

During the union miners' absence, two local creeks ran black with coal waste from Mine No. 7 in April 2021 and Warrior Met Coal was fined by regulators. Warrior Met Coal is currently working to open another massive underground coal mine, [Blue Creek Energy Mine No. 1](#), on the northwest side of the Black Warrior River.

For Black Warrior Riverkeeper's Notice of Intent to Sue, [click here](#).

For an interactive map of Mine No. 7 by Nelson Brooke, Black Warrior Riverkeeper, [click here](#).

For Nelson Brooke's high-resolution picture of Mine No. 7's unpermitted seeps, [click here](#).

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[Black Warrior Riverkeeper](#)'s mission is to protect and restore the Black Warrior River and its tributaries. The nonprofit organization promotes clean water for the sake of public health, recreation, and wildlife habitat throughout the Black Warrior River watershed.