

Federal agencies asked to block mine

March 15, 2020



Mark Lyons and Merrillee Malwitz-Jipson at Folkston, GA propaganda show by Twin Pines Minerals. This company was totally unprepared for its presentation. All photos by Jim Tatum



Twin Pines rep being corrected by Merrilee Malwitz-Jipson after making misinformed and untrue statements about the aquifer. OSFR board members Kristin Rubin and Mike Roth look on.



This area borders the Okefenokee Swamp and will be impacted by the mine if Twin Pines is allowed to proceed.



Bradford County commissioners at the moment of approving Chemours' mine expansion. Their MMP was so incompetent and incomplete that the DEP denied it and recommended that they follow the advice of Dr. Paul Still, environmental advocate who criticized the plan. Chemours had an agreement with Twin Pines to mine together in Florida.

We wish to thank Mark Lyons, Carol Burton, Cindy North and all the others who have worked extremely hard for five years to keep the mines out of our fragile wetlands, be it in Georgia or Florida. OSFR has been [in the fight](#) and has seen the incompetence, poor planning, rule-breaking and greed of [Twin Pines Minerals](#), [Chemours](#) and HPS II Enterprises, all companies who want to exploit our irreplaceable resources for money. They have a total disregard for the environment and are takers of what they can get with no thought for the future.

You can read the documents filed here at [this link](#). If you want to help CAPM fund this expensive lawsuit, please donate what you can [here at this link](#).

Read the complete article here in [the Brunswick News](#).

Comments by OSFR historian Jim Tatum.

jim.tatum@oursantaferiver.org

*– A river is like a life: once taken,
it cannot be brought back © Jim Tatum*

Federal agencies asked to block mine

- [By GORDON JACKSON \[gjackson@thebrunswicknews.com\]\(mailto:gjackson@thebrunswicknews.com\)](#)
- Mar 7, 2020



A notice of intent to sue has been filed on behalf of opponents of an Alabama company's plans to mine heavy minerals near the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge.

The Pompano Beach, Fla. lawyer who filed the notice earlier this week, Robert N. Hartsell, sent the 127-page notice to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. Department of Interior, the U.S. Attorney

General and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, among others.

The notice was filed on behalf of Citizens Against Phosphate Mining, Inc. and Mark Lyons, a Baker County, Florida, man who owns property along the St. Marys River. It seeks to stop Twin Pines Minerals from mining near the south end of the national wildlife refuge. It is also asking for the halt of mining heavy minerals by other companies in the Greater Okefenokee Swamp Basin in North Florida and areas near the 438,000-acre refuge in Georgia.

The ongoing mining operations are being blamed for sinkholes, flooding and the draining of lakes in North Florida, according to the notice.

Hartsell plans to sue the agencies for “allowing permitted and unpermitted mining activities in the Greater Okefenokee Swamp Basin in violation of the National Environmental Policy Act, the Clean Water Act, the Endangered Species Act and the Safe Drinking Water Act.”

He is giving officials 60 days to address the issues in his notice or a federal lawsuit will be filed. The complaint claims history has demonstrated “the detrimental effects mining has not only on the surrounding ecosystem, but on the hydrology, above and below the surface, resulting in hazardous flooding, contamination of aquifers, sinkholes and the disappearance of bodies of water altogether....”

DuPont abandoned plans to mine near the refuge after the company was unable to convince stakeholders the swamp and surrounding areas would not be harmed.

Twin Pines withdrew its permit application last month but company officials have expressed their intent to file another application after the plans to mine near the swamp have been revised.

The company's long term plans are to mine on a 12,000-acre site over a 30-year period.

The proposal has the support of elected officials in Charlton County because of what it would add to the tax digest and the 400 jobs created if mining is allowed.