

## WWALS Watershed Coalition, Inc.

the WATERKEEPER® Alliance Affiliate for the upper Suwannee, Withlacoochee, and Alapaha Rivers a 501(c)(3) nonprofit charity PO Box 88, Hahira, GA 31632 850-290-2350 wwalswatershed@gmail.com www.wwals.net December 8, 2016



To: Georgia Department of Natural Resources Environmental Protection Division Southwest District Watershed Protection Branch Attn: James A. (Jac) Capp **Branch Chief** 2 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive Atlanta, Georgia 30334 404-463-4911

James.Capp@dnr.state.ga.us

Lisa Myler District Manager GA DNR EPD WPD (404) 463-1511 lisa.myler@dnr.ga.gov

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Cc: Georgia:

Commander, U.S.A.C.E., Savannah District Attn: Mr. Terry C. Kobs 1104 N. Westover Blvd. Unit 9 Albany, Georgia 31707 (229) 430-8566 terry.c.kobs@usace.army.mil

Florida: U.S.A.C.E.. Jacksonville District Reg. Div. Jacksonville Permits Section Attn: Mr. Mark R. Evans Post Office Box 4970 Jacksonville, Florida 32232 (904) 232-2028 Mark.R.Evans @saj02.usace.army.mil

Alabama: U.S.A.C.E. Mobile District Reg. Div. Montgomery Field Office Attn: Mr. James S. Cherry II 605 Maple Street Building 1429 Room 105 Maxwell AFB, AL 36112-6017 (334) 953-2172 cesam-pa@usace.army.mil

FDEP Permit Number: 0328333-001 FERC Docket Number: CP15-17

USACE Application Numbers: SAS-2013-00942 (GA), SAJ-2013-03030 (FL), SAM-2014-00655-JSC (AL)

Applicant: Sabal Trail Transmission, LLC, Attn Mr. George McLachlan;

Re: Sabal Trail wetlands violations at Okapilco Creek and GA 122, Brooks County, Georgia Joe Freeman, et al.,

This is a report of lack of silt fence at obvious wetlands at Sabal Trail's crossing of Okapilco Creek, as well as at Coffee Road, GA 333, and GA 122, all in Brooks County, Georgia. Please investigate. Added to Sabal Trail's frac-out into the Withlacoochee River when Sabal Trail has no permit to put anything into that river, and Sabal Trail's sinkhole at the Withlacoochee River HDD site, a fine would be appropriate for these new violations, and stopping work until all Sabal Trail construction sites are investigated would be even more appropriate.

I ask for a prompt response. If I do not hear back via email by tomorrow, I will be calling each of you.

Please see these pictures, which show no silt fence where Sabal Trail's pipe is laid out north of Coffee Road across Okapilco Creek and Little Creek in obvious wetlands. I've included one here, and there are more at this link: <a href="http://www.wwals.net/2016/12/08/sabal-trail-at-okapilco-creek-2016-12-06/">http://www.wwals.net/2016/12/08/sabal-trail-at-okapilco-creek-2016-12-06/</a>



Looking north from Coffee Road, middle bridge between Okapilco Creek and Little Creek Picture by John S. Quarterman for WWALS 6 December 2016

There is silt fence at the road crossings of GA 333 and Coffee Road, but that fence does not continue onwards from the road. There is also no visible silt fence where the pipe is in the wetlands north of Coffee Road. I took these pictures Tuesday December 6th 2016.



Inadequate silt fence south of Coffee Road, Brooks County, Georgia Picture by John S. Quarterman for WWALS 6 December 2016

I also have a report from yesterday, Wednesday December 7th 2016 that there is no silt fence at the Sabal Trail GA 122 crossing, and obviously muddied wetlands at that site. I have included two pictures below.



No silt fence at GA 122 Sabal Trail construction site; picture for WWALS 2016-12-07



Damaged wetlands near Sabal Trail GA 122 construction site, Brooks County, GA Picture for WWALS 2016-12-07

WWALS to GA-EPD, et al. 2016-12-08 Page 3 of 4 Re: Sabal Trail wetlands and construction violations

## **Georgia Water Quality Certification**

I remind you all that the Georgia Water Quality Certification for Sabal Trail dated June 13, 2016 is contingent upon conditions, the first two of which I quote below; they continue through number 13. <a href="http://www.wwals.net/?p=21300">http://www.wwals.net/?p=21300</a>

This certification is contingent upon the following conditions:

- 1. All work performed during construction will be done in a manner so as not to violate applicable water quality standards
- 2. No oils, grease, materials or other pollutants will be discharged from the construction activities which reach public waters.

## Prompt response requested

Waiting for Sabal Trail's next biweekly report is not prompt and is not adequate for a response. I am not asking Sabal Trail. I am asking you, the permitting agencies. **WWALS requests prompt written responses to all these questions, preferably via email.** If I do not hear from you by tomorrow, I will be calling each of you, as well as the news media.

Thank you for your attention to these questions. I await your prompt reply.

Sincerely,

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John S. Quarterman, President

WWALS Watershed Coalition advocates for conservation and stewardship of the Withlacoochee, Willacoochee, Alapaha, Little, and Upper Suwannee River watersheds in south Georgia and north Florida through education, awareness, environmental monitoring, and citizen activities









