

Stephanie Matheny

From: Stephanie Matheny [stephanie@tcwn.org]
Sent: Thursday, June 23, 2011 4:46 PM
To: 'Paul Schmierbach'; Guzman.Humberto@epamail.epa.gov
Cc: Jonathon Burr; 'mark@tnike.com'; 'gcriss@utk.edu'; 'patrick.parker@tn.gov'
Subject: UT Sorority Village
Attachments: 6-18-11 UT Sorority Village.pdf; 7-22-10 UT_29300 ntu.pdf

Mr. Schmierbach and Guzman:

I am writing regarding the University of Tennessee Sorority Village construction site (TNR133481). As you know, this site has a long history of noncompliance with its NPDES permit. TDEC has issued several NOVs, beginning in December 2009. TCWN and James McMillan submitted complaints to TDEC/EPA beginning in February 2010, and you also received a complaint from Mark Campen of the Izaak Walton League on March 30, 2010.

Based on TDEC's response to James McMillan's Section 118(a) complaint and my subsequent conversations with TDEC staff, it appeared that the problems at the site were being addressed.

However, the site has discharged significantly muddy water several times during Knoxville's recent rain events. On Saturday, June 18, James McMillan took a sample of the discharge. I have attached the Microbac report, indicating that the stormwater discharged from the site had **turbidity of 32,500 NTU**. This is a stunningly bad result, and is the highest TCWN has ever seen from a construction site, seconded only by the 29,300 NTU discharge from this site last July 22 (see attached). Clearly, not enough is being done to prevent stormwater pollution from the UT Sorority Village.

The Tennessee Clean Water Network requests that TDEC immediately inspect the site and initiate a penalty action. The University of Tennessee has already been issued at least two NOVs and has had numerous opportunities to fix its stormwater controls. This level of chronic noncompliance is completely unacceptable for an entity of state government.

Thank you.

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