



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Chattahoochee Riverkeeper files lawsuit against Columbus construction company

Columbus, GA – Chattahoochee Riverkeeper, represented by Smith, Gambrell & Russell, LLP, has [filed a federal lawsuit](#) against the owner and the developer of Aspire at Old Guard for violations of the Clean Water Act. The defendants have failed to take appropriate measures required by law to protect nearby waterways from muddy stormwater runoff while building an apartment complex.

In March, Chattahoochee Riverkeeper (CRK) sent a [60-day notice of intent to sue](#), required by the Clean Water Act, to SCorUSA, LLC and Aspire at Old Guard, LLC for ongoing pollution violations at the Aspire construction site.

CRK first reported the site to the City of Columbus in 2025. Muddy stormwater had been released through broken and insufficient pollution controls and was flowing into the neighboring stream – a tributary to Heiferhorn Creek, which flows into Lake Oliver and the Chattahoochee River. As a result, the City required the developer to repair the controls.

In February 2026, CRK discovered that conditions at the site had worsened dramatically. The defendants' failure to install and maintain the required pollution controls combined with heavy rain sent muddy water flowing freely from the site. The creek – once a pristine stream teeming with life – was filled with sediment because of the defendants' violations of the law.

"In almost twenty years with CRK, this development is among the worst that I have ever seen," says Riverkeeper and executive director Jason Ulseth. "The failure to implement and maintain basic pollution controls has destroyed the neighboring creeks and aquatic life downstream. Given the gravity of these violations and the defendants' refusal to work collaboratively on a solution, CRK is moving forward with our lawsuit."

Under the Georgia Erosion & Sedimentation Act and the Clean Water Act, construction sites are required to have plans and pollution controls on site to stop the flow of muddy water into waterways when it rains. Sediment in water harms aquatic life, fills in drinking water reservoirs, increases water treatment costs, and causes damage that reduces property values.

Unfortunately, government agencies often lack the resources or will to enforce these laws, and excessive sediment from stormwater runoff remains the number one pollutant to the Chattahoochee River.

CRK is committed to securing accountability for these violations and mitigating the damage done to Heiferhorn Creek, Lake Oliver, and the Chattahoochee River. CRK is seeking injunctions to prohibit the defendants from causing further harm to the Chattahoochee River and its tributaries, for the defendants to fully restore the tributaries, civil penalties payable to the U.S. Treasury of \$68,445 per day for each violation of the Clean Water Act, as well as costs and expenses of bringing the lawsuit.

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About Chattahoochee Riverkeeper:

Chattahoochee Riverkeeper's mission is to educate, advocate, and secure the protection and stewardship of the Chattahoochee River, including its lakes, tributaries, and watershed, in order to restore and conserve their ecological health for the people and wildlife that depend on the river system and in recognition of the important ecosystem functions provided throughout the region and planet. For more information, visit www.chattahoochee.org.