

# UPDATES FROM PREVIOUS DIRTY DOZEN REPORTS

## **2017: Terry Creek: Local Governments Request Complete Cleanup at Toxic Waste Site in Brunswick**

From 1948 to 1980, Hercules Inc. in Brunswick produced a pesticide used by cotton and soybean farmers marketed under the name toxaphane. They didn't realize how appropriate the name was. A known cancer-causing chemical, toxaphane persists in the environment for decades, and it now contaminates Hercules former manufacturing site. Recently, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released its cleanup plan for the site that includes leaving too many contaminated soils in place. In response, Glynn County and the City of Brunswick commissions have both adopted resolutions demanding a complete cleanup of the site. Local legislators have also supported these resolutions. Georgia Water Coalition member, the Glynn Environmental Coalition, has informed local leaders about EPA's cleanup plans and has advocated for a complete removal of contaminated soils.

## **2017 Lake Sinclair: Georgia Power Announces Plans to Remove Coal Ash From Unlined Storage at Plant Branch**

In 2015, when Georgia Power Company first announced its plans to close and dispose of the company's toxic coal ash stored at multiple sites across the state, those plans included a suspect proposal to leave ash in a large unlined pond at Plant Branch adjacent to Lake Sinclair near Milledgeville. In August, the company announced it will excavate the unlined storage pond and move the ash to a new lined landfill. This change will help protect Lake Sinclair and reduce the likelihood of toxins leaching into groundwater. Georgia Water Coalition member, Altamaha Riverkeeper, has worked with local legislators and other leaders to encourage Georgia Power to take these positive steps.

## **2016 Northwest Georgia's Drinking Water: Bill to Regulate Fracking Signed Into Law**

When oil and natural gas wildcatters began soliciting northwest Georgia property owners about purchasing the mineral rights to their land, those residents—concerned about the prospects of natural gas drilling and fracking—contacted their legislators. Their legislators responded by introducing and passing legislation that would safeguard well water and surface water against the risks associated with fracking. Gov. Nathan Deal signed the bill into law earlier this year, and Georgia's Environmental Protection Division is currently refining the rules that are supposed to protect property owners and drinking water. Georgia Water Coalition members, Coosa River Basin Initiative and the Southern Environmental Law Center, played a role in drafting this legislation.

## **2012 Tired Creek: Ill-conceived Fishing Lake in Grady County Now Choking on Water Weeds**

Tired Creek was included on the 2012 Dirty Dozen because it was the target of a Grady County dam project that would destroy 300 acres of wetlands and nine miles of streams to create an un-needed 960-acre fishing lake. In 2012, Georgia River Network, American Rivers and Southern Environmental Law Center challenged the project in court and after multiple rounds of litigation, in 2015 the Georgia Supreme Court ruled against these Georgia Water Coalition partners (see Georgia's Stream Buffer entry in this report). The \$20 million fishing lake opened to the public in 2018. For years the county officials denied they would promote residential developments around the lake to pay off the project's construction debt, but now it appears that's what they are up to. In June, commissioners voted to spend \$90,000 to clear aquatic plants from the reservoir to make it more "desirable" for potential developers.