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Birmingham City Council Implores ASMC to Stop Proposed Reed Mine No. 5

Birmingham – In its City Council meeting yesterday, the City of Birmingham unanimously passed a resolution addressed to the Alabama Surface Mining Commission (ASMC), stating, “...we implore the ASMC to deny the permit for the proposed Reed Mine No. 5.” Reed Minerals No. 5 Mine is being proposed along the Mulberry Fork of the Black Warrior River near Doovertown and Cordova, upstream of one of greater Birmingham’s major drinking water intakes that provides water for 200,000 people daily. Scheduled to cover 506 acres, the mine proposes to discharge wastewater out of 23 points to the Mulberry Fork of the Black Warrior River.

Until September 10, concerned citizens, businesses and organizations may submit public comments about Reed Minerals No. 5 Mine via surface mail to: ASMC, PO Box 2390, Jasper, AL 35502-2390 or via E-mail to Dr. Randall Johnson, Randall.Johnson@asmc.alabama.gov. The comment letter must reference Reed No. 5 Mine, ASMC Permit No. P-3957.

Reed Minerals No. 5 Mine is the second proposed coal mine upstream of the drinking water supply in recent years, [following on the heels of the Shepherd Bend Mine proposal](#), which is 3 miles downstream at their closest points. On March 15, 2011, the Birmingham City Council unanimously passed a resolution “imploping the University of Alabama System to neither sell nor lease their significant land and mineral holdings to allow coal mining at Shepherd Bend.” UA System leaders have not yet decided whether short-term profit at Shepherd Bend would outweigh potential harm to the river, surrounding communities, Birmingham’s drinking water, and the UA System’s reputation.

Black Warrior Riverkeeper shares the City’s concern about the Reed and Shepherd Bend Mine proposals on the Mulberry Fork. “We hope the City of Birmingham’s unanimous resolution opposing Reed Mine No. 5 will inspire others to take action by telling the Alabama Surface Mining Commission to deny this mine’s permit,” said Charles Scribner, Executive Director of Black Warrior Riverkeeper.

For pictures and more information about Reed Minerals No. 5 Mine visit:

<http://blackwarriorriver.org/news/reed-mine-proposal-on-mulberry-fork.html>

To view the Resolution, visit:

<http://www.blackwarriorriver.org/pdf/BirminghamCityCouncilReedMineResolution.pdf>

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Black Warrior Riverkeeper (blackwarriorriver.org) is a citizen-based nonprofit organization whose mission is to protect and restore the Black Warrior River and its tributaries. A member of Waterkeeper Alliance, Black Warrior Riverkeeper was the Alabama Environmental Council’s 2007 Conservation Organization of the Year and the American Canoe Association’s 2008 Green Paddle Award winner. Nelson Brooke, Riverkeeper, won the Alabama Rivers Alliance’s 2010 River Hero Award. In 2011 the Black Warrior became one of America’s [Most Endangered Rivers](#) due to current and potential coal pollution. For more information, contact Nelson Brooke at (205) 458-0095, nbrooke@blackwarriorriver.org or Charles Scribner at (205) 458-0095, cscribner@blackwarriorriver.org