

COURTS

Canoeists want decision on pulp mill's pipeline

Canoe enthusiasts want federal environmental officials to make a decision about whether the Buckeye pulp mill in Perry can pipe pollution to the Gulf of Mexico.

The American Canoe Association filed suit against the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on Tuesday, saying the EPA was "shirking" its duties under the Clean Water Act and unnecessarily delaying a decision.

Buckeye wants to pipe 58 million gallons of treated wastewater per day 15 miles to the gulf, where the pollutants would be diluted. The mill currently discharges into the Fenholloway River.

The EPA put the plan on hold while its technical experts considered other options to deal with the wastewater, which has been linked to the dying off of sea grass beds as well as the formation of mutant fish.

The canoe group, which opposes the pipeline, wants EPA to hold a hearing requested by Florida officials two years ago.

— Ron Matus