



<b>NEWS</b>
<b>VIDEO</b>
<b>DIGITAL EDITIONS</b>
<b>OPINION</b>
<b>EVENTS &amp; NOMINATIONS</b>
<b>MBJ STORE</b>
<b>ADVERTISE</b>
<b>EDITORIAL CALENDAR</b>
<b>ARTICLE REPRINTS</b>

[HOME](#) [ABOUT US](#) [RACK LOCATIONS](#) [CURRENT POLL](#) [INTERNET DIRECTORY](#) [NEXT! MAGAZINE](#) [DIGITAL CHECKLIST](#)

## Environmental group goes to court over sewage discharges

by Associated Press

Published: January 15, 2014

Tags: [Andrew Whitehurst](#), [bench](#), [Bouie River](#), [City of Hattiesburg](#), [court](#), [ecosystem](#), [environmental law](#), [Groundworx LLC](#), [Gulf Restoration Network](#), [Hattiesburg City Council](#), [justice](#), [Kenneth Sarrett](#), [Kim Bradley](#), [law](#), [Leaf River](#), [legal](#), [sewage](#), [sewer](#), [wastewater](#), [wildlife](#)

HATTIESBURG — The Gulf Restoration Network has asked a federal judge to hold the City of Hattiesburg liable under the Clean Water Act for releasing improperly treated sewage into the Leaf and Bouie rivers.

The *Hattiesburg American* reports that the motion was filed in federal court Jan. 7, two days before the city entered into a 30-year contract with a company to take over the dispersal of treated wastewater.

Groundworx, LLC is to modify Hattiesburg's sewage lagoons and stop the discharge of wastewater into the Leaf River. The partially treated wastewater would be piped and sprayed over about 10,000 acres of land in Forrest and Lamar counties.

"This was something that we were going to have to do anyway because the regulations are changing, what we can put in the river, the limits are changing," City Council President Kim Bradley said.

"We're not going to do the conventional, cookie-cutter way like everybody else, treat it up and dump it in the river. We're going to take it and create a really unique irrigation system. We're going to grow trees, and we're going to grow grass, and we're going to do the green thing."

The GRN's motion for summary judgment asks U.S. District Judge Kenneth Starrett to find the city liable for 5,464 days in violation of the permissible levels of sewage allowed in the discharge permits, said Andrew Whitehurst, GRN's water policy director.

The GRN sued the city in March 2012.

"The city's own records clearly show thousands of violations of pollution standards, including for fecal coliform bacteria, biological oxygen demand and total supplemental solids," Whitehurst said. "Local communities are tired of dealing with the foul air from these sewage treatment facilities and the pollution in the Bouie and Leaf rivers.

"Ultimately, the city's mismanagement of its sewage affects downstream communities, as pollution from the city flows from these rivers into the Pascagoula and out to the Mississippi Sound."

The city was cited by the MDEQ for having unacceptable levels of effluent in the discharge, and was ordered to have designs for an upgraded system in place by October 2014, with a new system up and running by 2017. That led to the city's hiring of Groundworx LLC.

Good, Whitehurst said, but added that GRN still intends to ask that the suit be heard.

"I'm sure that the judge will take into account anything the city has done or is doing," Whitehurst said. "I guess you think of (the motion) as a prod to move things along."



Share this:

Twitter 4

LinkedIn 1

Facebook

Email

Google

Digg

**BUSINESS JOURNAL** **\$109 \$89**  
**Print & Online \$89**  
One year print & online subscription for only \$89  
CLICK NOW TO GET SIGNED UP

### TOP POSTS & PAGES

- A continual learner** — Christopher Lumaghini keeps pushing forward to educate himself and become better
- Commission approves shut down of dangerous I-55 exit**
- Wells Fargo names Anthony Webb as senior business relationship manager**
- Fire rages at North Miss. biofuel plant; too hot for firefighters**
- Neel-Schaffer opens new Rankin County office**
- Running with the big dogs** — Hollywood Feed taking small-store feel to national level
- Court rules against businessman in tour bus case**
- Heritage Home closing furniture plants**
- Lists**
- Offer made for Natchez Regional Medical Center**

**Fee-Free ATMs and Free Mobile Deposits**  
Banking On Your Terms Online and Anytime

**Community Trust Bank** Sign Up Now >  
Member FDIC

[Pinterest](#)

Like this:

[★ Like](#)

Be the first to like this.

To sign up for Mississippi Business Daily Updates, click [here](#).

[After a decade-plus of planning, hospital expansion gets underway](#)  
[Voters overwhelmingly approve new sales tax](#)

**POST A COMMENT**

Your name: \*

E-mail: \*

Homepage:

0524868



[Privacy & Terms](#)



**SUBMIT**

Notify me of follow-up comments by email.

Notify me of new posts by email.

**Office Space for Rent**  
in downtown Jackson  
Approximately 1800 sq. ft., includes 2 private offices

Amenities available:

- Shared kitchen
- Shared storage
- Semi-private office space

**CONTACT:**  
[alan.turner@msbusiness.com](mailto:alan.turner@msbusiness.com)  
or 601-364-1021

[Privacy Policy](#) | [Subscriber Agreement](#) | [Contact Us](#)  
Copyright © 2014. Mississippi Business Journal

200 N. Congress Street, Suite 400, Jackson, MS 39201  
601.364.1000 800.283.4625

FOLLOW THE MBJ ON TWITTER

Tweets

[Follow](#)

**MS Business Journal** @mbjournal 11m  
Grand jury returns indictment against former circuit clerk [msbusiness.com/?p=85169](http://msbusiness.com/?p=85169)

**MS Business Journal** @mbjournal 13m  
State's music, musicians take center stage at GRAMMY Week [msbusiness.com/?p=85167](http://msbusiness.com/?p=85167)  
[Expand](#)

**MS Business Journal** @mbjournal 20m  
Authorities offering reward for information in gun shop robberies  
[msbusiness.com/businessblog/?...](http://msbusiness.com/businessblog/?...)

Tweet to @mbjournal

**Fee-Free ATMs and Free Mobile Deposits**  
Banking On Your Terms Online and Anytime

**Sign Up Now** >

Member FDIC

Search for:  [Search](#)