

# Georgia River Network



126 S. Milledge Avenue  
Suite E3  
Athens, GA 30605  
Phone: 706-549-4508  
Fax: 706-549-7791  
info@garivers.org  
http://www.garivers.org

## STAFF

Julie Goldberg  
April Ingle  
Jan Kearce  
Jesslyn Shields  
Dana Skelton

## MISSION:

Georgia River Network is working to ensure a clean water legacy by engaging and empowering Georgians to protect and restore our rivers from the mountains to the coast.

## GOALS:

More people involved in protecting and managing Georgia's waters

Increasing awareness of the issues that threaten the health of our waters

Sharing resources to improve the protection of Georgia's waters

Providing the means to advocate for the health of our waters

January 13, 2009

Program Manager  
Non Point Source Program  
Erosion and Sedimentation Control  
4220 International Parkway, Suite 101  
Atlanta, Georgia 30354

Control #: BV-108-08-01  
Jennings Mill Retail Development, Epps Bridge parkway, Oconee County

To Whom It May Concern:

The purpose of this letter is to request a public hearing related to the request for a variance at this site.

The developer proposes to pipe and fill 5 headwater streams and associated wetlands for a total of 2,678 linear feet of stream disturbance. Headwater streams and wetlands are crucial for filtering pollutants and for maintaining downstream health, and the piping of streams and destruction of wetlands seriously impact watershed health. The applicant will be disturbing 62 out of 63 acres on a site that is currently un-developed.

In addition, 98% of the site will be graded and McNutt Creek will be threatened by sediment during construction and stormwater post construction. Sediment and stormwater are the major impediments to stream health in Georgia, and McNutt Creek is already suffering from storm water sediment and flow volumes from the previously developed site at Epps Bridge Parkway.

In order to meet water quality standards, the construction site should be redesigned to retain more of the natural areas and to include adequate sediment and stormwater ponds to improve water quality before stormwater exits the property and enters the McNutt Creek.

Thank you for considering our request.

Sincerely,

April Ingle  
Executive Director