



**For Immediate Release:**  
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## **ADEM Responds to Sewage Release**

**MONTGOMERY** – Scientists with the Alabama Department of Environmental Management have mobilized in response to a sewage release in Uniontown, Alabama. The mobilization efforts follow citizen complaints about discolored, foul-smelling water in Freetown Creek and Chilatchee Creek.

ADEM staff performed field observations and documented visual impacts to water quality in both Freetown Creek and Chilatchee Creek. The negative water quality impacts were documented for a distance of nearly 20 miles downstream from the City of Uniontown wastewater treatment plant, which treats wastewater and household sewage from the City of Uniontown. Water quality data has been collected and is being analyzed for a wide-range of pollutants including bacteria and fecal content.

The seriousness of the discharge prompted ADEM to submit a request to the courts for a Temporary Restraining Order to be issued to the City of Uniontown for the unpermitted discharge of wastewater. ADEM has also issued a Cease and Desist Order to the City of Uniontown to address not only the unpermitted discharge of wastewater but to also initiate efforts to cleanup and remediate existing environmental impacts to the nearby streams and adjoining private property.

Officials at ADEM are encouraging citizens in the area to use caution and avoid contact with any discolored water in the area of Freetown Creek and Chilatchee Creek. Discolored, foul-smelling water can be related to untreated, or improperly treated, wastewater and can contain harmful bacteria.

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