



**petition and in the many conversations that we have had with people at EPA, they have told us that they have no intention to push Florida to comply with the Clean Water Act by adopting pollution limits for the discharge of these chemicals.**

**In July the ERC adopted DEP's proposed new criteria for about 92 toxic chemicals, which largely resulted in weaker protections from most of these chemicals than we currently have. DEP then sent the proposed rule to the Secretary of State for certification. Since the rule was certified in October, DEP has done nothing more. The state is required by federal law to submit new water quality standards to EPA for review and approval or disapproval within 30 days of adoption.**

**So, it seems that the state is stalling again, dragging it's feet in hopes perhaps that the new EPA under Trump will have or will invent some way to avoid compliance with our nation's pollution laws. This is not to say that the Obama EPA has not done a pretty good job of ignoring the Clean Water Act - they have!!! Regardless of the reason, our case is compelling and we are hoping the federal judge will agree with us that six years is long enough for EPA to decide whether Florida's toxic chemical releases need to be regulated.**

**You can find our complaint on our website and a press release about the suit is also there. Filing this suit is expensive and we have committed to paying up to \$5,000 in legal fees and expenses. If you would like to help us with these legal expenses, please send a check to the address below and know that your help is greatly appreciated. For those of you who sent contributions already, thank you for your generous support for our work.**

## **OTHER NEWS ABOUT CONTAMINATION OF OUR WATERS**

**We also learned this week that DOAH Judge Bram Canter ruled in industry's favor regarding DEP's proposed rule about accidental spills and contaminations. After the Mosaic sinkhole disaster was exposed, Governor Rick Scott said he would require public notice when a polluter had unexpected spills and/or contaminations. DEP proposed**

**statutory authority and invalidated the rule. So, we are back to living in the dark about what industries are dumping into our waters, air and land when no one is around to see their dirty work.**

#### **ENDING ON A BIT OF GOOD NEWS**

**We also learned this week that Orlando Senator Linda Stewart filed a bill for the upcoming legislative session that requires the governor to fill vacancies on the Environmental Regulation Commission within 90 days of the seats becoming vacant. Senator Stewart hopes to prevent DEP from sending new rules to the ERC when public interest seats (environmental and local government) are vacant - such as happened in July when DEP ram-rodged through new, weakened criteria for almost 100 toxic chemicals. The bill would also require a supermajority of five votes to alter certain areas of the Florida Administrative Code that deal with things like air pollution, water quality standards, hazardous substance release notification and drinking water.**

**We will all want to do what we can to help Senator Stewart get her bill passed next year.**

<http://www.flsenate.gov/Media/PressReleases/Show/2584>

**Be sure to keep an eye on our website for updates on our litigation and other important events. You can also follow us on Twitter and Facebook. Have a very safe and Happy New Year and we will be in touch again soon.**

**For all of Florida's waters,**

**Linda Young  
Florida Clean Water Network  
PO Box 5124  
Navarre, FL 32566  
[llyoung2@earthlink.net](mailto:llyoung2@earthlink.net)  
850.322.7978**

Subscribe

Share ▼

Past Issues

Translate ▼



---

*Copyright © 2016, Florida Clean Water Network, All rights reserved.*

**Our mailing address is:**

P.O. Box 5124, Navarre, FL 32566

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#)