

# SHENANDOAH RIVERKEEPER®

P.O. Box 1251, Berryville, VA 22611

mark@shenandoahriverkeeper.org | 571-969-0746

www.shenandoahriverkeeper.org

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July 31, 2018

Tara Sieber  
Virginia Department of Environmental Quality  
Valley Regional Office  
4411 Early Road  
Harrisonburg, VA 22801

Dear Tara,

I would like to formally submit a complaint about excessive algae blooms in the South Fork Shenandoah River in Page County. The photos in the addendum below, taken 7/13/18, show just a few examples of the heavy algae coverage on the bottom of the river in several areas between the Alma Boat Landing at Bus. Rt. 340, and the White House Boat Landing at Rt. 211 near Luray. The locations are probably not visible from public roads. This is a very popular recreational section of river and the algae blooms can be discouraging to boaters, tubers, swimmers and fishermen.

The GPS coordinates, date, and time are noted below each photograph. The original digital photographs, with embedded time and location information are solely owned by Shenandoah Riverkeeper and can be made available if needed.

Thank you for investigating this complaint.

Sincerely,

Mark Frondorf  
Shenandoah Riverkeeper



Shenandoah Riverkeeper is a branch of Potomac Riverkeeper Network,  
a registered 501(c)3 nonprofit organization.



Addendum



38\_35\_57.31N\_78\_34\_18.07W 7/13/18 1:06pm



38\_37\_06.55N\_78\_34\_16.75W 7/13/18 1:39pm





38\_37\_04.32N\_78\_33\_55.68W 7/13/18 1:51pm



38\_38\_34.82N\_78\_31\_53.86W 7/13/18 2:54pm

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Aug. 1, 2018

Tara Sieber  
Virginia Department of Environmental Quality  
Valley Regional Office  
4411 Early Road  
Harrisonburg, VA 22801

Dear Tara,

I would like to formally submit a complaint about excessive algae blooms in the South Fork Shenandoah River in Warren County. The photos in the addendum below, taken 7/21/18, show just a few examples of the heavy algae coverage on the bottom of the river in many areas between the Hazard Mill Boat Landing, on Rt. 629, and the Bentonville Boat Landing, at the bridge on Rt. 613 in Warren County. These locations are probably not visible from public roads. This is a very popular recreational section of river and the algae blooms can be discouraging to boaters, tubers, swimmers and fishermen. On 7/21/18 when these photos were taken, Shenandoah Riverkeeper and the U.S. Forest Service were leading a river snorkeling trip on this section of river. Many of our snorkeling guests complained about the thick blanket of algae that was on the river bottom and floating by. The algae strings were clinging to our feet and hands as we explored the river below the surface. The top mats of algae had a foul smell.

The GPS coordinates, date, and time are noted below each photograph. The original digital photographs, with embedded time and location information are solely owned by Shenandoah Riverkeeper and can be made available if needed.

Thank you for investigating this complaint.

Sincerely,

Mark Frondorf  
Shenandoah Riverkeeper



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Addendum



38\_50\_24.95N\_78\_21\_10.45W 7/21/2018 12:01pm



38\_50\_53.44N\_78\_20\_49.24W 7/21/2018 1:52pm





38\_50\_38.75N\_78\_20\_21.04W 7/21/2018 2:05pm



7/21/2018

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Aug. 30, 2018

Tara Sieber  
Virginia Department of Environmental Quality  
Valley Regional Office  
4411 Early Road  
Harrisonburg, VA 22801

Dear Tara,

I would like to formally submit a complaint about excessive algae blooms in South River in Augusta County. The photos in the addendum below, taken 8/29/18, show just a few examples of the heavy algae coverage on the bottom of the river in several areas between Crimora and Harriston. These locations are not visible from public roads. The algae blooms near Crimora did not have as many green patches as the ones closer to Harriston. The farther I boated, the worse (with thicker coverage) the blanket of green algae became.

The GPS coordinates, date, and time are noted below each photograph. The original digital photographs, with embedded time and location information are solely owned by Shenandoah Riverkeeper and can be made available if needed.

Thank you for investigating this complaint.

Sincerely,

Mark Frondorf  
Shenandoah Riverkeeper

## Addendum



Shenandoah Riverkeeper is a branch of Potomac Riverkeeper Network,  
a registered 501(c)3 nonprofit organization.







38\_10\_32.15N\_78\_51\_07.85W 8/29/2018 1:03pm



38\_11\_15.83N\_78\_50\_58.04W 8/29/2018 2:06pm





38\_11\_56.56N\_78\_50\_34.02W 8/29/2018 3:05pm



38\_11\_56.64N\_78\_50\_33.96W 8/29/2018 3:05pm