

SHENANDOAH RIVERKEEPER®

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July 30, 2019

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 near Elkton. Algae has covered about 93% of the river bottom in the area of the Stonewall Riverside Park at the South end of Elkton. A layer of thick green algae covers the bottom of the river in this area and the mats rise up and float downstream each afternoon as they absorb oxygen from the water. The photographs in the addendum below were taken on the West side of the river, a couple hundred feet upstream of the park. This area has become popular with recreational river users such as tubers, swimmers, and boaters who have direct contact with river water.

The GPS coordinates, date, and time are noted below each photograph in the addendum. 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_23_41.82N_78_37_29.73W 2:56pm 07/29/2019



38_23_41.46N_78_37_29.77W 2:56pm 07/29/2019