

## Twin Pine Minerals, LLC Permitting Update

Twin Pines Minerals, LLC has submitted permit applications to the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) proposing a demonstration project for mining heavy minerals sands near St. George, Charlton County, Georgia. These permits, for ground water withdrawal, air quality, and surface mining, are typical for any surface mine: Groundwater Withdrawal, Air Quality, and Surface Mining Permit. On January 19, 2023, EPD posted the Mining Land Use Plan for a 60-day public comment period, which included 2 virtual public hearings, and received 78,747 total comments. After evaluating the public comments received, EPD has published the revised Mining Land Use Plan and Response to Comments document on the EPD website at: <u>https://epd.georgia.gov/twin-pines</u>

On February 9, 2024, Georgia EPD initially placed the draft permits on a 30-day public notice to solicit public comment. <u>After receiving multiple requests to extend the comment period, EPD has decided to extend the public comment period to 60 days</u>. These draft permits can be found on the EPD website. A virtual public meeting will be held on March 5, 2024 to receive comments on these documents and to provide an update on the permitting process. Comments will also be accepted at <u>TwinPines.Comment@dnr.ga.gov</u>. EPD will consider all public comments and may request the applicant make changes to address those comments. EPD will post a response to comments on the EPD website after the official comment period closes.