

Take Action to Spotlight the Urgency for Strong Action to Protect Our Waterways:

FFGC has taken on this project to spotlight the water quality in our Florida waterways as they are becoming increasingly polluted. Pollution from many sources produces an ugly green slime and toxic algae outbreaks during the summer. Help FFGC show our decision makers how pollution impacts you by taking a photo of algae outbreaks in your area. Send pictures as attachments in jpg format to Libby Curnow (eacurnow@kernow.com) and Pat Carver (carverge@aol.com). Include the name of the photographer, date the picture was taken, name and location of the body of water featured and the district in which it is located.

Why? Laws to protect our water are being eroded by the legislature, the Florida DEP is trying to weaken the new numeric criteria for water quality and the US House passed a bill which guts the Clean Water Act and the new limits. The US House bill also limits the EPA's enforcement of stricter standards of the Clean Water Act than a state chooses.

Letter from our District X President to FDEP.....

Nov. 2, 2011

Mr. Eric Shaw
Environmental Manager
Standards & Assessments Section
Florida Department of Environmental Protection
2600 Blair Stone Road, MS 6511
Tallahassee, FL 32399-2400

Dear Mr. Shaw

I am writing to you and the ERC to request that you vote against **the FDEP Draft Changes to Chapter 62-302 - Florida's numeric nutrient criteria.**

I am deeply concerned about the continuing degradation to Florida's water bodies and rules that would not protect our waters from an unnatural excess of nutrients that would cause even further pollution.

And as a member of the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, I strongly support our Water Quality Position Statement which stresses the importance of keeping our waters clean for our health, economy and quality of life. The 2011 Legislature cut many protections of the waters and wetlands of Florida. We are asking the ERC and the FL DEP to support our efforts to clean up our waters and prevent further pollution.

Specifically, as I understand it, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) is proposing rules for nutrient levels in Florida waterways which are even weaker than EPA recommendations. These rules would: 1) allow the continued discharge of sewage, animal manure and fertilizer pollution into most of the state's water resources; 2) keep the burden of prevention and clean-up costs on the state and the taxpayer and not on industry polluters; and 3) they would *give the state legislature control of the nutrient pollution issue.*

Please do not allow these proposed changes to happen.

Sincerely,

Barbara Hadsell

Member of the FL Federation of Garden Clubs and Registered FL Voter
6506 Sandi Lane, Greenacres, FL 33467