

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ALABAMACOOSA RIVERKEEPER, CENTER FOR
BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY, ADVANCE
ETOWAH, and OUR CHILDREN'S
EARTH FOUNDATION,

Plaintiffs,

v.

THE WATER WORKS AND SEWER
BOARD OF THE CITY OF GADSDEN,

Defendant.

**COMPLAINT FOR
DECLARATORY AND
INJUNCTIVE RELIEF AND
CIVIL PENALTIES**(Federal Water Pollution Control
Act, 33 U.S.C. §§ 1251 to 1387)

Coosa Riverkeeper, Center for Biological Diversity, Advance Etowah, and Our Children's Earth Foundation, (collectively, "Plaintiffs"), by and through their counsel, hereby allege as follows:

I. INTRODUCTION

1. For years, the Water Works and Sewer Board of the City of Gadsden (the "Board") has allowed sanitary sewers in Gadsden to fall into disrepair. Cracked and broken sewers, leaking manholes, uncleared blockages, pump station failures, and other problems cause untreated sewage to discharge from manholes, underground breaks in sewer pipes, and other points. These discharges, called sanitary sewer overflows ("SSOs"), are endemic in Gadsden.

2. The problem originates with the Board's neglect of its basic responsibilities to maintain sewage infrastructure. The sewer system defects allow

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