

# PCB dredging fight resolved

Judge still wants to hear from residents

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ANDERSON — A federal judge said he wants to hear from concerned citizens at an Oct. 13 hearing even though a dispute over dredging of PCB-contaminated sediment in the Twelve Mile River has been resolved.

Schlumberger Technology Corp. and trustees in a 2006 settlement have resolved their latest dispute over the amount of sediment being left in the river, and Schlumberger is withdrawing its emer-

## PCB MOTION

Read the trustees' response and documents from the Lake Hartwell Association at Greenville-Online.com/webextras

gency motion that was the subject of the hearing, said U.S. District Judge G. Ross Anderson Jr.

Anderson said he still wants to hear from representatives of Upstate Forever, the Lake Hartwell Association and the Pickens Soil and Water Con-

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ervation District that had asked to be allowed to participate in the hearing.

"We have serious concerns," said Brad Wyche, executive director of Upstate Forever. "Hundreds of thousands of cubic yards of sediment that may well contain PCBs need to be removed from the river and properly disposed of."

The project is meant to be a restoration, not just dredging, Wyche said.

The dispute involved

the amount of sediment left behind in a dredging operation behind two dams that Schlumberger was ordered to remove from the Twelve Mile.

The work is part of a 2006 settlement over damages due to PCB contamination in the river and Lake Hartwell, where health advisories have been posted for decades warning against eating certain fish caught there.

Six federal and state agencies that are trustees in the settlement have reached a unanimous agreement to approve the work done so far, and as a result, Schlumberger is withdrawing its emergen-

cy motion, Anderson said.

Schlumberger had claimed that trustees created delays by failing to sign off on the dredging, making it impossible to meet the court's timeline for the work that is supposed to be completed in a year.

Trustees originally responded that not enough sediment had been removed. Trustees have now approved the work, Anderson said Thursday.

The environmental groups also are concerned about the amount of sediment left along the sides of the river, according to documents delivered to the judge.