

Georgia Department of Natural Resources

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For Immediate Release

November 2, 2010

Georgia EPD To Hold Public Hearing On Water Permits For Plant Washington

The Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) has announced it will hold a public hearing to collect comments on two water-related permits for a proposed coal-fired power plant in Washington County.

The hearing will be held December 7, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. at the following address:

Ridge Road Elementary School Cafeteria
285 Ridge Road
Sandersville, Ga. 31082

The hearing has been scheduled in response to an administrative law judge's ruling in July, which sent the surface water withdrawal and the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits back to EPD.

The judge ruled that even though the cooling and process water for Plant Washington will be withdrawn from the Oconee River and any water not consumed by plant processes will be returned to the Oconee River, it is an interbasin transfer because the water will be used in the Ogeechee River Basin. An interbasin transfer of water requires the issuance of this press release and a public advisory.

The judge also determined that the NPDES permit should be partially remanded to EPD. EPD is proposing to revise the permit to impose effluent limitations for free available chlorine and total residual chlorine at the point of discharge into the equalization basin, and for other limited purposes, for the reasons further detailed in EPD's Fact Sheet / Permit Rationale.

The draft permits, including a redlined version of the draft NPDES permit, can be reviewed at the EPD Watershed Protection Branch, 4220 International Parkway, Suite 101, Atlanta, Ga. 30354 during regular business hours. A copying machine is provided for public use at the Watershed Protection Branch office. There will be a copying charge of 25 cents per page.

Citizens may also submit written comments to EPD at the address below by December 10, 2010. All comments postmarked on or prior to that date will be considered by EPD in making its final decisions on the permits.

Written comments to:
Watershed Protection Branch
4220 International Parkway, Suite 101
Atlanta, Georgia 30354

News Media Contact: Kevin Chambers (404) 651-7970