

April 20, 2009

Dear Sirs:

Please help us. We CANNOT continue to dig up our mountains AND pollute our air and precious water. The world and Washington Co. needs Alternative sources of energy NOT COAL. There is NO clean coal.

The world is facing an unprecedented crisis with global warming, which affects all humanity. Will you not help? Stop this COAL plant IN Washington Co. Georgia. Do it for your grandchildren.

Thank you,

Elizabeth Congo

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AIR PROTECTION BRANCH

Talking Points on Proposed Coal Plant Washington

Written comments regarding the air permit can be sent by February 22 to:
Environmental Protection Division, Air Protection Branch
4244 International Parkway, Suite 120
Atlanta, Georgia 30354
Subject: Docket 17924

Communities Across the Country Are Rejecting New Coal Proposals

Today communities and regulators throughout the country have rejected more than 60 coal plants in the past several years, because of uncertainty around the cost of future carbon dioxide regulations, escalating construction costs, and the economic and environmental benefits of cleaner energy sources. Several major financial institutions, like Citigroup and JP Morgan, have even said they will no longer fund Coal-fired power plants unless provided enough evidence that the plants will use carbon sequestration.

Coop Customers Face High Costs of Future Coal Plant Regulations

Nationwide, utilities are eager to lock in new coal-fired power plants before any carbon-regulating policies are passed—in hopes of grandfathering plants in and exempting them from future emissions restrictions. Yet, global warming regulation is expected sometime in the next two years before utilities can push their proposal into construction. Congress is intensely debating how best to regulate carbon, and the U.S. is under international pressure to deliver on carbon reductions. At a recent public information event, the Coops spokesperson presented only minimal efforts to reduce global warming pollution, such as making their proposed coal plant run efficiently, building a solar project nearby, and offering some energy efficiency programs. The pollution reductions suggested by the Coops will be washed away by massive carbon dioxide emissions from this new facility. The Coops will need to make a serious, aggressive move away from pulverized coal toward clean and sustainable energy. The proposed Plant Washington faces other cost uncertainties surrounding tighter fine particulate and mercury pollution regulations.

Georgia Utilities Already Divert the Most Freshwater from Others In Need of Water

Electric utilities in Georgia are already the single largest users of freshwater in the state. In its recent *Power or Water* article, the AJC reported that a family of four can use three times more water to power their home than they use for regular water use. According to the Coops, Plant Washington would require approximately 16 million gallons per day during peak periods and would involve building a 12-mile pipeline to the Oconee River for water intake while drawing from groundwater for its water needs during droughts. Energy efficiency and renewable energy alternatives such as solar and wind would draw little or no water.

Getting Energy Priorities Straight

Energy efficiency alternatives offer full economic potential. The Coops have not done any comprehensive study on how much energy savings they could generate using smart, commercially available energy efficiency strategies. A state of Georgia study conservatively estimates that by 2015, 23%-24% of the cumulative load growth in Georgia could be avoided through cost-effective energy efficiency programs. The broadly supported *National Action Plan for Energy Efficiency* says that various state and regional studies have found cost-effective energy efficiency could help cut load growth by half or more compared to current forecasts. The American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy says energy efficiency programs save utility companies money, costing more than 4 cents per kilowatt-hour to create electricity in a coal or nuclear plant but only 3 cents per kilowatt hour to finance energy efficiency programs.

*For more information contact Southern Alliance for Clean Energy (404) 373-5832
www.cleanenergy.org*