ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DIVISION

Jeffrey W. Cown, Director

EPD Director's Office

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December 22, 2023

MEMORANDUM

TO: Board of Natural Resources

FROM: Jeffrey W. Cown, Director JWC

Environmental Protection Division

SUBJECT: Technology and Mercury Impact Review - Periodic Evaluation

In 2006, the Georgia Board of Natural Resources (DNR Board) adopted Georgia Rule 391-3-1-.02(sss) – "Multipollutant Control for Electric Utility Steam Generating Units", which required emissions controls for mercury (Hg), particulate matter (PM), nitrogen oxides (NOx), and sulfur dioxide (SO₂) at specific coal-burning electric utility steam generating units in Georgia. These controls were required to be phased-in across the various coal-burning units from 2008 through 2018. The rule also required the EPD Director to submit a "Technology and Mercury Impact Review – Periodic Evaluation" report to the DNR Board by December 31, 2023 (Georgia Rule 391-3-1-.02(sss)22.).

The Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) worked with the Coastal Resources Division (CRD) and the Wildlife Resources Division (WRD) to collect fish, measure the mercury concentrations in fish tissue, and develop the attached report to fulfil this obligation. This report evaluates available and relevant information to determine if additional reductions of mercury emissions from electric utility steam generating units are necessary or appropriate. A summary of this report will be provided during the January 2024 DNR Board meeting.

JWC:jb

Attachments