

**Response to Comments**  
**Draft Handling Permit for Coal Combustion Residuals (CCR)**  
**Plant Yates AP-2**

In accordance with the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) public participation policy, the draft Closure/Post-Closure Care Permit for Georgia Power's Plant Yates Existing CCR Surface Impoundment AP-2 was posted on EPD's website on May 15, 2023. This initiated the comment period, which remained open until June 14, 2023 (30 days). EPD received a total of 1 comment letter via email. The letter contained two comments, which are provided below along with EPD's response.

**Comment:**

Commenter is pleased that Georgia Power will completely remove CCR from AP-2 West and that it will deconstruct the existing old and hazardous dam and replace it with a Category 1 dam conforming with the Georgia Safe Dams Act.

**EPD Response:**

EPD agrees.

**Comment:**

Commenter expressed concerns about impacts from coal ash pond dewatering on surface water quality and potential threats to groundwater resources from the long-term storage of coal ash in unlined pits. The Commenter does not support the use of the Plant Yates Ash Management Area for CCR storage and was concerned that CCR from AP-2 will be deposited in the Ash Management Area. Georgia Power's plans for CCR management at Plant Yates will leave groundwater, and quite possibly surface water, at risk from ongoing and future water pollution and contamination. The Commenter asks Georgia Power to store CCR in lined landfills and facilities as Georgia Power has proposed to do at Plant Wansley and other sites in Georgia, and energy utilities have done in North Carolina, South Carolina and Virginia.

**EPD Response:**

The Plant Yates AP-2 permit is for the removal of ash from AP-2, and as a result, this comment is not applicable to this permit. EPD is currently reviewing the Plant Yates Ash Management Area permit application and will post the draft permit for public comment when it has been completed.