

# Georgia Department of Natural Resources

Environmental Protection Division • Air Protection Branch

4244 International Parkway • Suite 120 • Atlanta • Georgia 30354

404/363-7000 • Fax: 404/363-7100

Chris Clark, Commissioner

F. Allen Barnes, Director

JUN 21 2010

Ms. Lyle Lansdell  
1200 Ga Highway 24  
Sandersville, GA 31082

Re: Plant Washington, Permit Application No. 17924  
Airs No. 30300051

Dear Ms. Lansdell:

The Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) held a public hearing on October 20, 2009 on the draft permit for Plant Washington. At the public hearing, you submitted several specific questions on the Plant Washington permit application. The following are EPD's responses to your questions:

**Question 1:**

What is the expected life of the lining under the ash pile?

**EPD Response:**

The ash will be stored in a solid materials handling facility constructed with a liner below and a low permeability cap above. This facility will store not only ash, but gypsum generated from the sulfur dioxide pollution controls. A flexible membrane liner such as high-density polyethylene will be used in conjunction with a bentonite clay liner to contain and help collect any leachate released from the ash. The exact life of the bottom composite liner is unknown, but it is expected to last well beyond the active life of the storage facility.

**Question 2:**

What will be the volume of the ash pile at the end of 30 years?

**EPD Response:**

The Design and Operational Plan has not yet been submitted to the Division. The estimated total ash and gypsum volume after 30 years would be approximately 17,000 acre-feet. The combined storage area is approximately 400 acres with an allocation of approximately 100 acres specifically for ash.

**Question 3:**

Will it fit within the allotted 100 acres on the site?

**EPD Response:**

As mentioned above, there is 400 acres allotted for both storage of ash and gypsum. The ash and gypsum will be fit within the 400 acres.

Ms. Lansdell  
Page 2.

**Question 4:**

What will be the weight of the arsenic and mercury in the ash pile?

**EPD Response:**

Weight of the mercury will be approximately 8 tons and weight of the arsenic will be approximately 800 tons at the end of 30 years. The total weight of the ash and gypsum in the solid materials handling facility at the end of 30 years is estimated to be 23 million tons.

**Question 5:**

What is the destination of any water that washes through the ash pile?

**EPD Response:**

Stormwater that comes into contact with the ash is deemed as leachate and will be collected and treated (cleaned/filtered, etc) prior to release from the site. This water may be re-used as process water by Plant Washington before discharge.

**Question 6:**

I heard that ash pile liners can leak.

**EPD Response:**

Liners can leak but there will also be construction overview to get the best system possible and groundwater monitoring to check for releases.

**Question 7:**

How far down the road are these jobs?

**EPD Response:**

The number and timing of potential future jobs is not a consideration of EPD when making the determination to issue a permit. However, this information has been reported in the public domain, so this response passes that information on to you. According the company's web page, the construction process would take approximately 4 years and that there would be approximately 1500 workers at the peak of construction activities. After construction was completed, approximately 120 positions would be needed for the day-to-day operation of the power plant.

Thank you for your interest in this project; EPD appreciates the public involvement of its citizens and hopes to continue that relationship and improve it at every opportunity.

If you have any questions or need more information, please contact me at (404) 363-7016 or via email at [James.Capp@dnr.state.ga.us](mailto:James.Capp@dnr.state.ga.us).

Sincerely,



James A. Capp  
Branch Chief  
Air Protection Branch