


PLANT WASHINGTON JUST SAY NO TO COAL



Five of Georgia's electric membership corporations (EMCs), Snapping Shoals, Central Georgia, Cobb, Upson, and Washington, have formed a consortium called Power4-Georgians to build an 850 MW coal plant in Washington County, GA. If approved, Plant Washington would become the state's first coal plant to be constructed in over 20 years.

COAL PLANTS' IMPACT ON AFRICAN AMERICAN COMMUNITIES

According to a 2010 report from the Clean Air Task Force, fine particle pollution linked to the coal industry is expected to cause over 13,000 premature deaths in 2010 as well as almost 10,000 hospitalizations and more than 20,000 heart attacks per year.¹ Research shows that communities of color are disproportionately impacted by the air pollution caused by coal plants.

In 2002, the Clean Air Task Force and the Coalition for the Peoples' Agenda described how power plants saddled African American communities with dirty and toxic air:²

- The air in our communities violates air quality standards: 71% of African Americans live in counties that violate federal air pollution standards, compared to 58% of the white population.
- 68% of African Americans live within 30 miles of a coal-fired power plant — the distance within which the maximum effects of the smokestack plume are expected to occur.
- Asthma attacks send African Americans to the emergency room at three times the rate (174.3 visits per 10,000 population) of whites (59.4 visits per 10,000 population).



According to a research brief by Dr. Robert Bullard of Clark Atlanta University, "Blacks in 19 states and Latinos in 12 states are more than twice as likely as Whites to live in neighborhoods where air pollution poses the greatest health danger."

Footnotes: 1. "The Toll from Coal." Clean Air Task Force, 2010. <http://www.catf.us/resources/publications/view/138>. 2. "Air of Injustice." Clean Air Task Force and the Coalition for the Peoples' Agenda, 2002. http://www.catf.us/resources/publications/files/Air_of_Injustice.pdf



THERE ARE ALTERNATIVES TO PLANT WASHINGTON

NOT ALL GEORGIA EMCs SEE COAL AS A GOOD INVESTMENT...

In early 2009, four of the original EMCs invested in Plant Washington backed out of the proposal citing uncertainties of costs associated with building a new coal plant and pending federal carbon rules. The plant will cost more than \$2 billion to build. Similar plants have seen their construction costs double since 2008.



GEORGIA'S SIGNIFICANT RENEWABLE ENERGY POTENTIAL REMAINS LARGELY UNTAPPED

Through a combination of energy efficiency initiatives and renewable sources such as biomass, offshore wind, and solar power Georgia can meet future energy demands without relying upon polluting, outdated technologies such as coal.

The more we promote and invest in renewable technology now, the cheaper and more accessible it will become in the near future, and the more new jobs we create for Georgia today.

Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Facts:

- * Energy efficiency improvements to your house, such as better insulation or heat/AC tune-ups can lower your bills and most EMCs will help you pay for them.
- * Energy efficiency would create far more jobs per dollar invested than a new coal plant.³
- * According to a University of Georgia report, Georgia has enough biomass potential to meet 12% of the state's energy needs.⁴
- * The Georgia Wind Resource Map identifies significant wind energy potential off Georgia's coast.⁵

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP?

- Visit www.cleanenergy.org to learn more about the problems with coal and Plant Washington and to contact your EMC - let them know you want more efficiency tips and less dirty coal!
- Request that your local EMC direct its investments towards safe, affordable energy solutions such as energy efficiency, wind, solar, and bio-energy.
- Write a letter to the editor of your local newspaper expressing your concern about investing in new coal.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT



Working for a clean energy future

(404) 373-5832

Footnotes: 3. "Energy Efficiency as an Alternative Strategy for Power4Georgians EMCs.," The Ochs Center for Metropolitan Studies, March 2010: <http://www.cleanenergy.org/images/files/PlantWashingtonFinal030510.pdf> 4. "The Feasibility of Generating Electricity from Biomass Fuel Sources in Georgia," Center for Agribusiness and Economic Development report, 2003. 5. Bruce Bailey, Georgia Wind Energy Conference Presentation, October, 2005: <http://www.caed.uga.edu/publications/2003/pdf/FR-03-06.pdf>