Speak Out Against Coal Ash: G.G. Allen Steam Station

Now is the time to tell the NC Department of Environmental Quality (NCDEQ) that the people of North Carolina deserve to have clean water protected from the threat of Duke Energy's unlined, leaking coal ash sites by moving the coal ash to dry, line storage away from out rivers and groundwater.

What is the purpose of the hearing and what will happen at the hearing?
NCDEQ is holding a series of public meetings about their draft proposed classifications for each coal ash site. The final classifications will determine whether or not sites receive a full cleanup. At each meeting, NCDEQ will explain their draft proposed classification and receive comments from the public.

Do I need to speak to attend?
You do not need to speak to attend, but we hope you will consider it. NCDEQ needs to hear that no community is low priority and that leaving these leaking coal ash pits in place is NOT a cleanup plan. Please do plan to wear **blue** to show your support for clean water. If you do decide to speak, you'll need to sign up once you arrive. Please make sure to share any personal stories that you have. It is best to make these comments your own.

NCDEQ Coal Ash Public Hearing

When: Tuesday, March 22nd at 6:00pm

Where: Gaston College Myers Center Auditorium, 201 Highway US 321 S Dallas, NC 28034

Other details: Wear blue to show your support for clean water!

Top 3 Points to Emphasize:

1. No community is low priority!
2. Allen should be classified as high priority, and moved to dry, lined storage away from waterways.
3. If coal ash is capped in place, it will continue to pollute groundwater and nearby rivers, lakes, and streams. Capped storage will not protect communities from the threat of a spill or dam failure.

All NC communities deserve a cleanup:

- No community is low priority and leaving these coal ash pits is NOT a cleanup plan.
- According to Duke Energy, more than 200 seeps from coal ash pits across the state leak about 3 million gallons a day into our waterways. For decades now, Duke Energy has stored its toxic coal ash in unlined holes in the ground next to our rivers and in contact with our groundwater.

- If coal ash is capped in place, the ash will continue to pollute groundwater and nearby rivers, lakes, and streams. Capped storage will not protect communities from the threat of a dangerous dam failure or a disaster similar to the Dan River spill.
- All of Duke Energy's unlined, leaking coal ash sites across North Carolina are high risk and should be cleaned up by moving the coal ash to dry, lined storage away from our rivers and groundwater.
- None of Duke Energy's unlined, leaking coal ash sites across North Carolina are low risk. A low risk rating would allow Duke Energy to cover up its leaking pits while leaving the coal ash in contact with our groundwater and alongside our rivers, lakes, and streams.
- Removing coal ash to dry, lined storage works.

  Example: *South Carolina Electric & Gas has seen a dramatic decrease in arsenic concentrations in the groundwater since removing coal ash from its unlined basins at its Wateree site, with levels reduced up to 90%. Meanwhile, South Carolina utility Santee Cooper has announced that removing ash from all of its unlined coal ash basins to lined storage or recycling into concrete is a "cost effective" "triple win" for its customers, the economy, and the environment.*

What do NCDEQ's classifications mean?

Low Priority = Coal ash ponds must be closed by December 2029. Coal ash could be capped in place and left to pollute rivers and groundwater.

Intermediate Priority = Coal ash must be excavated and moved to dry, lined storage by December 2024.

High Priority = Coal ash must be excavated and moved to dry, lined storage by December 2019.

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Allen DRAFT classification:
-2 ponds low-or-intermediate classification (to be determined)

All ponds at G.G. Allen should be classified as high risk!

G.G. Allen should be listed as high priority:

- DEQ's on-the-ground staff at the regional office determined Allen to be high risk. Why did DEQ's political appointees make an about face, classifying it as low-or-intermediate?
- More than 114,000 people rely on drinking water downstream from the plant, yet the site continually pollutes the Catawba River.
  - Duke Energy estimates that tens of thousands of gallons of contaminated groundwater are being discharged into the Catawba River every day.
- The Allen plant has a history of structural deficiencies, including dam breaches. The state has also uncovered cracked pipes with holes in them beneath the coal ash pond dams.
- Families living near the unlined, leaking coal ash ponds have been instructed by the state not to drink or cook with their water, due to elevated levels of vanadium and the carcinogen hexavalent chromium. No family should have to question the safety of their water.
- Duke Energy's own modeling predicts that if capped-in-place, coal ash will cause groundwater pollution. The pollution will violate health0based standards for antimony, boron, chromium, hexavalent chromium, cobalt, and vanadium for at least 100 years into the future.

For information about submitting comments online, or to view comments and hearing information for other coal ash sites, visit NCDEQ's website. Comments must be received online or postmarked by April 18th.