

These are just a few comments to the EPA from Baldwin County residents at the Sept. hearings:

Consider the following points:

Possible points about the Plant Barry site in your own words:

- Are recreation activities on unpolluted water important to you?
- Potential for hurricanes and tropical storms providing irreparable danger to Mobile and Bay area from the rupture of the pond's dike.
- General concerns about the long-term effects of coal ash pollution.
- Health impacts – clean and safe drinking water; pollution of the Bay, etc.
- Environment – damage to local ecosystem, wildlife, seafood habitats, etc.
- Flora and fauna are affected in “America’s Amazon”.
- Other information that means something to you if a disaster larger than the BP oil spill happened again.

“Solve the problem by spending the necessary money to be proactive rather than risk the tremendous cleanup cost and the catastrophic impact on our own health and our valuable resources. We have a ticking time bomb! Al Power and our ADEM hope it won’t explode!”

Ala Power customers already pay \$4.49 per month toward coal ash mitigation. If VA can do it – so can Alabama! Consider the cost of the Kingston, TN coal ash cleanup in 2008! What would that cost be today? (20 times worse than the BP oil spill!)

“My wife and I are residents of Baldwin County Alabama. We kayak swim and fish in the Mobile Bay. We are good stewards of our environment and expect the same from corporations that are doing business in our community. We are present here today to ask Alabama Power to remove the coal ash as other states have done, and not cap it in place as customers of Alabama Power we are currently charged a monthly fee for the clean-up process. My wife and I are stockholders in the Southern Company, the parent company of Alabama Power. As such, we are asking that this issue be resolved by removing the coal ash to prevent future damage to the environment and to prevent future lawsuits. Both of which could negatively affect profits for the company and stockholders...”

“I'm an outdoor person who loves doing many outdoor activities I can discuss how Alabama and the other states have a long history of overburdening our communities with dangerous industrial practices that ruin our environment and the health of so many people, but I won't as you already probably know more than I do. As a lawyer, I have worked in enough companies where there have been an OSHA violation or other environmental issues where a common comment of the people in control is “Let's just pay the penalty, it's a lot cheaper than fixing the problem”. Please think about our beautiful state and let's fix the real problem now! Thank you”

“I've recently learned more about the EPA's Office of Resource Conservation and Recovery and in particular two of the agency's goals:

1. protecting human health and the environment from the potential hazards of waste disposal
2. ensuring that waste is managed in an environmentally sound manner

As a citizen of Alabama, I am very discouraged that ADEM has granted a permit with such weak requirements which are so out of sync with what our sister states are doing to address toxic coal ash. This is a hazardous waste! ADEM is a state agent who seems willing to allow opportunities for catastrophic damage to the people of Alabama and the rivers and land we hold so dear.”

"My name is Sally Smith. I live in Westminster Village, a continuing care facility in Spanish Fort AL. I'm 80 years old last year I learned that I had lung cancer that had already spread to my liver. A significant part of this is that I do not do well with being sick, So what to do with this miserable disease?

I immediately connected with the worst future and the worst possibility that is endangering my beloved Mobile Bay in the Alabama Delta- America's Amazon. In my declining health, I decided to pursue joy instead of worry and encouraged my friends to help me make a difference. I focused on a poem that our Kentucky grandson wrote when he was in the 4th grade it begins, "I am from the crabs and fish, the sunset and the waves."

I am overwhelmed with how much the Bay and the Delta are an integral part of all five of our grandchildren's lives. One attends Dauphin Island Sea Camp, one grandson is a fisherman, one granddaughter photographs the Bay, and the other granddaughter is a college sailing team coach. They lived on the Bay or visited every year. And they all take off for Stockton, our Delta community, every chance they get.,

Our daughter-in-law and son chose to redo our Bay house and make it theirs, and now at the end of my life they have made it possible for me to live there in a room that used to be mine and it allows me to watch the water, the sky, and the lights, and hear the surf. The possibility that the EPA might not demand that Alabama Power move the ash away from the water terrifies me for all our generations to come."

Note: Sallie, the initiator of the "Coal Ash Action Group" passed away on Oct. 27, 2023. She is very missed, but we will carry on her goal to "move the ash" until it is done.

"We are all familiar with information about Plant Barry's massive ash pond it is alarming and frightening. The toxicity of coal ash sludge, the amount of the stuff in proximity to the river and the delta, the seepage in our groundwater and drinking water, and general topics of public health and the ecosystem dash all are a grave concern I believe we deserve the peace of mind and confidence that this solvable issue will be resolved and soon! The toxic sludge must be safely extracted and removed with proper oversight and monitoring. If that is accomplished, citizens will have the assurance that there is no longer a threat to public health, the environment, the economy, tourism, and their well-being from the coal ash pit currently sitting in our backyard."

"I believe Alabama Power is not accepting corporate responsibility for the coal ash. Coal ash ponds are being excavated and hazardous sludge removed in other states - surely this can happen in Alabama, but ADEM with its weak guidelines provided an out for Alabama Power. An honorable and responsible corporation would step up - Alabama Power you can be the hero here if you take charge and make this needed change by moving the coal ash inland."

"In the years 2014-2018, the Alabama Power Corporation exceeded the industry standard of return on equity by 1 Billion! That excessive profit is certainly above nationwide averages and resulted in every customer paying \$700 more in their bill than average utilities. Instead of investing substantially in renewable energy or giving the consumer a rate comparable to the nationwide average they pay a very nice dividend....."

"Among hundreds of other smaller Alabama rivers, the Tennessee Tombigbee Cahaba Coosa Tallapoosa, and Black Warrior Rivers all merged with Alabama and the Mobile rivers to flow directly through the Mobile Tensaw delta and Mobile Bay. Many of these rivers have been impacted by the leaching of byproducts of coal ash facilities that reside within the state of

Alabama beside these rivers and ultimately end up running through our delta and Bay. Coupled with the leaching and overflow waiting to happen from the Berry coal ash facility, we the lower counties of Alabama are being exposed daily and yearly to caustic chemicals - we are and have been getting a double, triple, and even higher hit with poisonous byproduct daily. The current leaching of caustic coal ash byproducts spreads with the tides, with hurricanes, with spring floods. An overflow would be an absolute destruction! What once was a 100-year flood plain can now be thought of as a 10-year or worse one. Please save our Bay and consider the loss of our economic and tourism benefits by moving the ash as soon as possible!"

"I have been a resident on the Eastern Shore of Mobile Bay for over 35 years. We have been employed by shipping, played in, learned to ski in, raced sailboats, swam in, fished in, hunted and explored in, and gone frog gigging in the delta for over 37 years. I have been an educator and taught science and respect all of nature and its importance to mankind to young children and my own three children who now have returned and enjoy Mobile Bay and this surrounding area. They have children that love the Bay in the same way as we did for these many years. It's hard to believe that there's a possibility that a lethal and poisonous pond of coal ash is sitting poised north of my home about to overflow with one hurricane. In the meantime, most of us can't let out our "coal ash pond breath" and we are turning very red holding on to it. "

"My comment is to please listen and go with what the scientists, researchers, and statistics are saying. Clear your conscience Alabama power, and do the right thing for people, your neighbors, and all of God's nature by moving all of the coal ash and do it well and correctly. Your neighbors are people that you know, and our famous delta is also real with these unusual animals and plants and important history...."

Do the right thing for our state, Alabama Power!

Additional Coal Ash Facts:

Many of you already know that 25 miles from Mobile, there is a toxic lagoon containing 21 million tons of dangerous coal ash which is polluting groundwater with arsenic and cobalt among other elements. The pond sits on the bank of the Mobile River and covers an area equal to 451 football fields. A single dirt dike is the only thing holding the toxic stew from surging into the delta, then flowing down the Mobile River, and finally into Mobile Bay.

Alabama Power's plan to "manage" this environmental threat is to leave the coal ash in the same location with modifications. However, cancer causing elements would continue to leak out and pollute the groundwater, and should the dike system fail, the ensuing environmental pollution in the delta, river, and bay would be 20 times greater than that caused by the BP oil spill on Alabama's coast in 2010.