

THE HIGH RISK OF COAL FOR POWER

KEY RISKS

High Costs

Across the country utility companies are steering away from new coal plants due to rising costs of equipment and construction as well as changes in demand due to economic and regulatory uncertainty. As the health and environmental impacts of coal ash, air and carbon pollution drive increasingly tough safeguards, the cost of operating coal plants is rising.

Threats to Communities

Coal-fired power plants pose numerous pollution threats to our Southeastern communities. Coal ash leaches toxins into our waterways through improperly lined landfills, which threaten to spill like the 2008 Kingston disaster. Ozone, smog, and toxic air pollution continue to plague our region. Mercury pollution poisons our waterways, impacting the recreation industry and public health. Coal plants in the South emit more than 480 million tons of CO₂ annually – nearly equivalent to the emissions of Australia.

Water Resource Depletion

Coal-fired power plants are an incredibly water-intensive technology, competing with other important water needs in the Southeast such as tourism, agriculture, fishing industries and sensitive biodiversity. Coal plants require millions of gallons of water per day, and face reliability risks, especially during drought conditions.



TVA's New Johnsonville coal ash pond, "Ash Island" releases untreated wastewater into the Tenn. River.

WHAT SACE IS DOING:

- SACE is actively challenging new, misguided coal-fired power plant proposals in Georgia, where five electric membership corporations (EMCs) formed a consortium called Power4Georgians to build two 850-megawatt coal plants in Washington and Ben Hill counties.
- SACE strategically targets existing coal-fired power plants for retirement campaigns, which utilize numerous legal, policy and community-based tactics to highlight and internalize the high risks to utilities from continued investments in outdated technology.
- We are involved in numerous legal challenges to air and water permits across the region to achieve our goals of stopping new coal plant proposals and decreasing the use of and investment in existing coal plants.
- SACE actively supports finalization of EPA's coal-related rulemakings, and calls upon lawmakers and utility regulators to support affordable, clean and safe energy solutions. To reduce global warming pollution we promote efficiency, conservation, wind, solar, and bioenergy.
- SACE works with concerned citizens, organizations, community leaders and elected officials to build coalitions against coal-fired power plants and coal-related pollution.