

Sanford opposes \$1.25 billion coal-fired power plant

By Tony Bartelme
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COLUMBIA — Gov. Mark Sanford said he's opposed to Santee Cooper's plan to build a \$1.25 billion coal-fired power plant along the Great Pee Dee River.

The governor announced his position during a press conference this afternoon in his office, joining a growing number of Republican and Democratic governors who have come out against coal-fired power plants.

Sanford said he decided to oppose the plant because of the increasing costs of coal, the eroding economy and the Obama administration's stance on placing controls on carbon dioxide emissions. Coal plants are the largest source of CO₂, the primary greenhouse gas.

Sanford, who has been conspicuously quiet about the Santee Cooper issue, said that while he's against the coal plant, people have to be "for something." He said he strongly favors moves to increase the state's nuclear power generation.

"We applaud Governor Sanford's bold decision to oppose this plant," stated Sierra Club Conservation Chair John Hartz. "Like governors from all over the country, Governor Sanford recognizes that this plant would hurt our state's economy even as it threatens our health."