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Southern Alliance for Clean Energy

Plant Washington Coal Plant

Just Say No To Coal

Six of Georgia's electric membership corporations (EMC's), Cobb, Pataula, Upson, Washington, Central and Snapping Shoals, have formed a consortium called Power4Georgians 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.

Plant Washington's Impact on Georgia:

➢ ***Cost:*** The plant **will cost more than $2 billion to build**. Furthermore, the price of coal has been extremely volatile, with average prices per short ton almost tripling between 2007 and 2008.[1] **If you purchase power from one of the 6 EMC's involved in building this plant, YOU are actually paying for this dirty venture.**

➢ ***Water Impacts:*** Plant Washington will need **13-16 million gallons of water** per day to operate. To obtain water, a 30-mile pipeline to the Oconee River will be created and 16 wells will be dug in Washington County to extract groundwater for use during periods of drought.[2] In times of drought, we cannot afford to lose this much water to a highly consumptive source like this power plant. We need water for our people and crops.

➢ ***Air Quality and Global Warming Impacts:*** Plant Washington will put more smog-forming nitrogen oxides, toxic mercury, and soot-forming sulfur dioxide into Georgia's air. In addition, **Plant Washington's yearly global warming pollution would be equal to adding nearly 1 million NEW cars onto Georgia's roads every year!**

Not all Georgia EMCs see coal as a good investment…

In early 2009, 4 of the original 10 EMCs invested in the Plant Washington coal plant backed out of the proposal citing the uncertainties of costs associated with building a new coal plant and pending carbon legislation.

Footnotes: 1. Coal News and Markets, Energy Efficiency Administration, 2010: www.eia.doe.gov/cneaf/coal/page/coalnews/coalmar.html. 2. Power4Georgians LLC, Application for Water Permit Georgia Environmental Protection Division.

There are alternatives to Plant Washington

Georgia's significant renewable energy potential remains largely untapped. Through a combination of energy efficiency initiatives and renewable energy sources such as biomass, off-shore wind, and solar power, Georgia can meet future energy demands without relying upon polluting, outdated technologies such as coal.

Investments in renewable energy aren't just beneficial to the environment and human health, they are economically-sound. Fuel for renewable energy, such as wind and solar power, is free. 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 GA today!

Renewable Energy Facts

✓ According to a University of Georgia report, Georgia has enough biomass potential to meet 12% of the state's energy needs.[3]

✓ The Georgia Wind Resource Map has identified over 10,000 MW of wind energy potential off Georgia's coast.[4]

What can you do to help?

✓ **Write to your paper and your EMC board** opposing Plant Washington.

✓ **Advocate that your local EMC** redirect its investments toward affordable, clean, safe energy solutions such as energy efficiency, wind, solar, and bioenergy.

✓ **Urge your elected officials** to support policies that give incentives to energy efficiency and renewable energy and that discourage the building of new coal and nuclear power plants in Georgia.

✓ **Join Southern Alliance for Clean Energy** and contribute to our efforts to advocate for clean, safe and affordable energy solutions.

For more information contact Southern Alliance for Clean Energy
404.373.5832 or www.cleanenergy.org

Footnotes: 3. "The Feasibility of Generating Electricity from Biomass Fuel Sources in Georgia," Center for Agribusiness and Economic Development report, 2003. **4.** Bruce Bailey, Georgia Wind Energy Conference Presentation, October 2005: http://www.caed.uga.edu/publications/2003/pdf/ER-03-06.pdf

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