

Plant Washington Coal-fired Power

Coal: A Costly Mistake

Five of Georgia's electric membership corporations (EMCs), Cobb, Snapping Shoals, Central Georgia, Washington, and Upson, 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 is extremely volatile, with average prices per short ton almost tripling between 2007 and 2008.¹ The EMCs are not openly saying how this plant would be paid for, but in all likelihood it'll be customers who pay through higher electricity bills.

➤ **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 is proposed as well as 16 wells dug in Washington County to extract groundwater for use during periods of drought.² In times of unstable precipitation patterns and 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 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 federal carbon rules.

Footnotes: 1. Coal News and Markets, Energy Information Administration, 2008: 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

Energy Efficiency is the best short-term solution to our power needs. For utilities, it's a cheaper way to meet demand than new coal-fired power plants. A recent study³ found that reducing energy demand by 1.5% each year in homes and businesses in the area served by Power4Georgians would cost less than a new coal plant and create more than 5 times as many permanent jobs. Energy efficiency incentives **lower electric bills** and build a **home-grown business market**.



Georgia's significant renewable energy potential remains largely untapped. Investments in renewable energy such as biomass, off-shore wind, and solar power aren't just beneficial to the environment and human health, they are economically sound. 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 Georgia 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.⁴
- ✓ The Georgia Wind Resource Map identifies over 10,000 MW of wind energy potential off Georgia's coast.⁵



What can you do to help?

- ✓ **Write to your EMC and your newspaper** opposing Plant Washington and advocating for investments in affordable, clean, and 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:¹ "Energy Efficiency as an Alternative Strategy for Power4Georgians EMCs." The Ochs Center for Metropolitan Studies, March 2010. <http://www.cleanenergy.org/images/files/PlantWashingtonFinal030510.pdf> 4. "The Feasibility of Generating Electricity from Biomass Fuel Sources in Georgia," Center for Agribusiness and Economic Development report, 2003. 5. Bruce Bailey, Georgia Wind Energy Conference Presentation, October 2005: <http://www.caed.uga.edu/publications/2003/pdf/ER-03-06.pdf>