

**NCDEQ Coal Ash Impoundment Closure Plan
Decision
Allen Steam Station**

Attachment 2: Public Comments

Oct 27, 2020



From: [Jennifer Doucette](#)
To: [Allencomments](#)
Cc: [Nick Torrey](#); [Holman, Sheila](#); [Lane, Bill F](#)
Subject: [External] SELC Comments - Allen Power Station
Date: Tuesday, March 17, 2020 2:11:56 PM
Attachments: [2020-03-17 Comment Letter - Allen.pdf](#)

CAUTION: External email. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify. Send all suspicious email as an attachment to report.spam@nc.gov

Good afternoon Ms. Hughes,

Please find attached comments on the Allen Power Station closure plans, on behalf of Catawba Riverkeeper Foundation and Waterkeeper Alliance.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Doucette
Legal Administrative Assistant
North Carolina State Bar Certified Paralegal | [Southern Environmental Law Center \[southernenvironment.org\]](http://Southern Environmental Law Center [southernenvironment.org])
601 West Rosemary Street, Suite 220 | Chapel Hill, NC 27516-2356
T: 919-967-1450 | F: 919-929-9421 | Email: jdoucette@selcnc.org

SOUTHERN ENVIRONMENTAL LAW CENTER

Telephone 919-967-1450

601 WEST ROSEMARY STREET, SUITE 220
CHAPEL HILL, NC 27516-2356

Facsimile 919-929-9421

March 17, 2020

VIA EMAIL

N.C. Department of Environmental Quality
Louise Hughes
1601 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-1601
allencomments@ncdenr.gov

Re: Comments on Closure Plan – Allen Steam Station

Dear Ms. Hughes:

On behalf of Catawba Riverkeeper Foundation and Waterkeeper Alliance, we support Duke Energy's plan to excavate the unlined coal ash basin at its Allen Steam Station on Lake Wylie.

This result is required by the North Carolina Coal Ash Management Act. As the Department set out in its April 1, 2019 Closure Determination, the ongoing contamination and the risks associated with leaving millions of tons of coal ash saturated in groundwater are too great, and full excavation is the right solution to ensure that groundwater and downstream surface waters are protected.

The closure plan removes approximately 19.4 million tons of coal ash from the leaking, unlined ash basins and other ash storage areas at Allen, and disposes of all the ash onsite in lined, dry storage. This cleanup is the largest in North Carolina and represents an enormous victory for Lake Wylie and the community.

We have two requests for the Department:

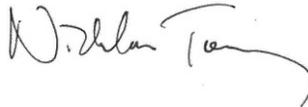
Each of Duke Energy's coal ash sites contain millions of tons that are saturated in groundwater, and DEQ must ensure Duke Energy removes all of this ash. Appendix E of the closure plan states that if Duke encounters ash saturated in groundwater, "[a] plan will be submitted to NC DEQ by Duke Energy pertaining to the removal of ash if these conditions or other restricting factors occur." Closure Plan, Appendix E, Section 4.3. Because we already know that millions of tons of ash are saturated in groundwater at every one of these sites, DEQ should require Duke Energy to submit its plan for fully removing saturated ash now, to ensure the plan is adequate and all saturated ash will be removed.

In addition, DEQ must continue to protect North Carolinians by ensuring the safety of the workers who are cleaning up the coal ash. DEQ should require Duke Energy to protect its workers *and* contractors by creating a safe work environment with protective equipment.

We are grateful to Secretary Regan and the whole Department of Environmental Quality for your work to implement CAMA and ensure these sites will be cleaned up once and for all. We fully support this closure plan.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nicholas S. Torrey". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Nicholas S. Torrey
Senior Attorney

cc: Sheila Holman, Assistant Secretary for the Environment
Bill Lane, General Counsel

From: [Ray Williams](#)
To: [Allencomments](#)
Cc: [Mary Williams](#)
Subject: [External] Coal Ash
Date: Thursday, February 27, 2020 4:53:08 PM

CAUTION: External email. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify. Send all suspicious email as an attachment to report.spam@nc.gov<<mailto:report.spam@nc.gov>>

It is my understanding that Duke is planning to move the coal ash to a lined coal ash pond and monitor it for 30-years.

What everyone knows, to include Duke, is that their proposed system will fail someday. If it lasts 30-years and 1-day they're off the hook. THIS IS A CRAZY IDEA.

If Duke wants to take the "low" cost solution they need to monitor it forever!.

When it fails Duke should then be required to remove the coal ash from the site.

If Duke is unwilling to accept the above "long term" solutions then it proves to everyone that they know it will fail someday.

We must protect the environment and the community forever not just 30-years.

Best Regards,
Ray Williams
562-743-9801