



*Belews Creek Steam Station
Coal Ash Impoundment Closure Plan*

Public Hearing
February 18, 2020





Current View



Belews Creek Steam Station

- Located in Stokes County
- Owned by Duke Energy Carolinas
- Two-unit, 2,240-megawatt coal fired plant
- Began operation in 1974
- Currently in active operation
- Coal ash basin construction completed in 1972
 - 270 acres
 - Currently contains 11.97 million tons of ash



Coal Ash Management Act – House Bill 630 – July 2016

- January 2019 – DEQ held public information sessions regarding closure options for the ash basins at Allen, Belews Creek, Cliffside, Marshall, Mayo and Roxboro (excavate, hybrid or cap in place)
- April 1, 2019 – DEQ directed Duke to fully excavate all the ash basins
- April 26, 2019 – Duke filed Petitions for Contested Case Hearing in the Office of Administrative Hearings challenging DEQ's decision for closure method
- December 31, 2019 – Duke submitted Closure Plans for closure by excavation
- December 31, 2019 – Duke, DEQ and several community environmental groups entered into a Settlement Agreement ending the appeal litigation
- January 31, 2020 – Consent Order incorporating the terms of the Settlement Agreement filed with Wake County Superior Court
- February 5, 2020 – Consent Order entered by Judge Paul Ridgeway



Final Consent Order

- Covers coal ash impoundments at Allen, Belews Creek, Cliffside, Marshall, Mayo and Roxboro
- Identifies nine ash impoundments to be excavated
- More than 80 million tons of impoundment ash will be excavated and stored in newly constructed, onsite lined landfills
- 4 million tons of impoundment ash will be left in place
 - Located beneath pre-existing permitted landfills and structural fills
 - Covered with a synthetic closure cap system to prevent water infiltration
 - Stability features installed to prevent ash movement
 - Additional groundwater monitoring may be required
 - Duke must demonstrate corrective action measures will clean up groundwater by December 31, 2029



DEQ Closure Plan Action Timeline

- December 31, 2019 – DEQ received proposed Closure Plans for Allen, Belews Creek, Cliffside, Marshall, Mayo and Roxboro
- CAMA requires DEQ to conduct public hearings within 60 days of receipt of proposed closure plan
- Public allowed at least 20 days after public hearings to submit written comments
- Final decision (approval or disapproval) by DEQ due 120 days of receipt of complete closure plans
- Within 60 days of approval, Duke Energy must begin implementation of the closure plan



Closure by Excavation

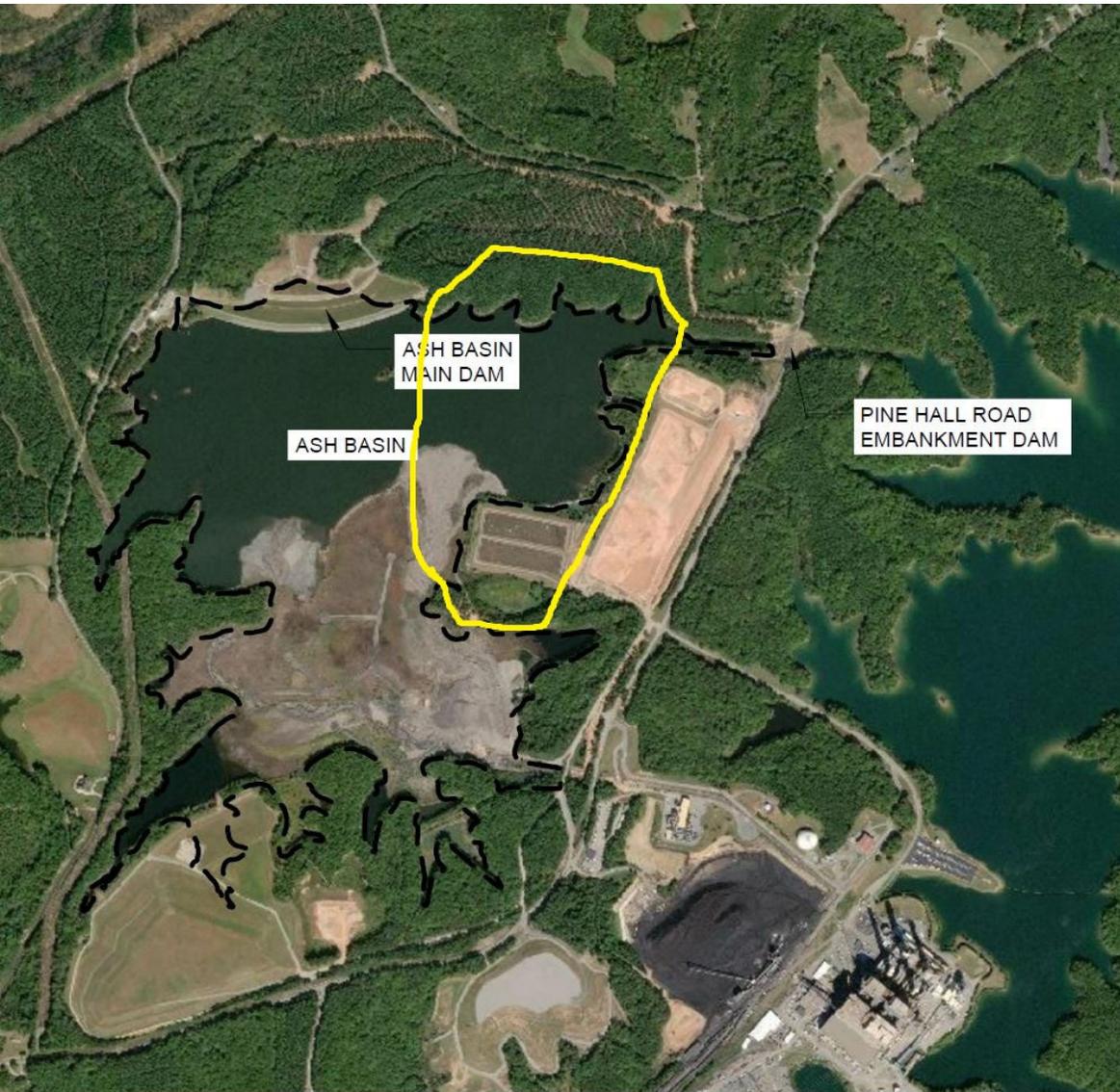
- One impoundment will be excavated
 - 11,970,000 tons of ash
 - 11 years to complete excavation
- Excavated ash will be placed in a double-lined landfill partially within the footprint of the coal ash impoundment
- Proposed New Landfill Details
 - Approximately 100 acres
 - Final elevation of 900 feet (125 feet above Pine Hall Road)



Estimated Project Schedule

- Begin landfill construction – 4th Quarter of 2021
- Begin coal ash excavation – 1st Quarter of 2023
- Complete coal ash excavation – 4th Quarter of 2031
- Complete final closure of landfill – 4th Quarter of 2032
- Complete final site vegetative cover – 4th Quarter 2033





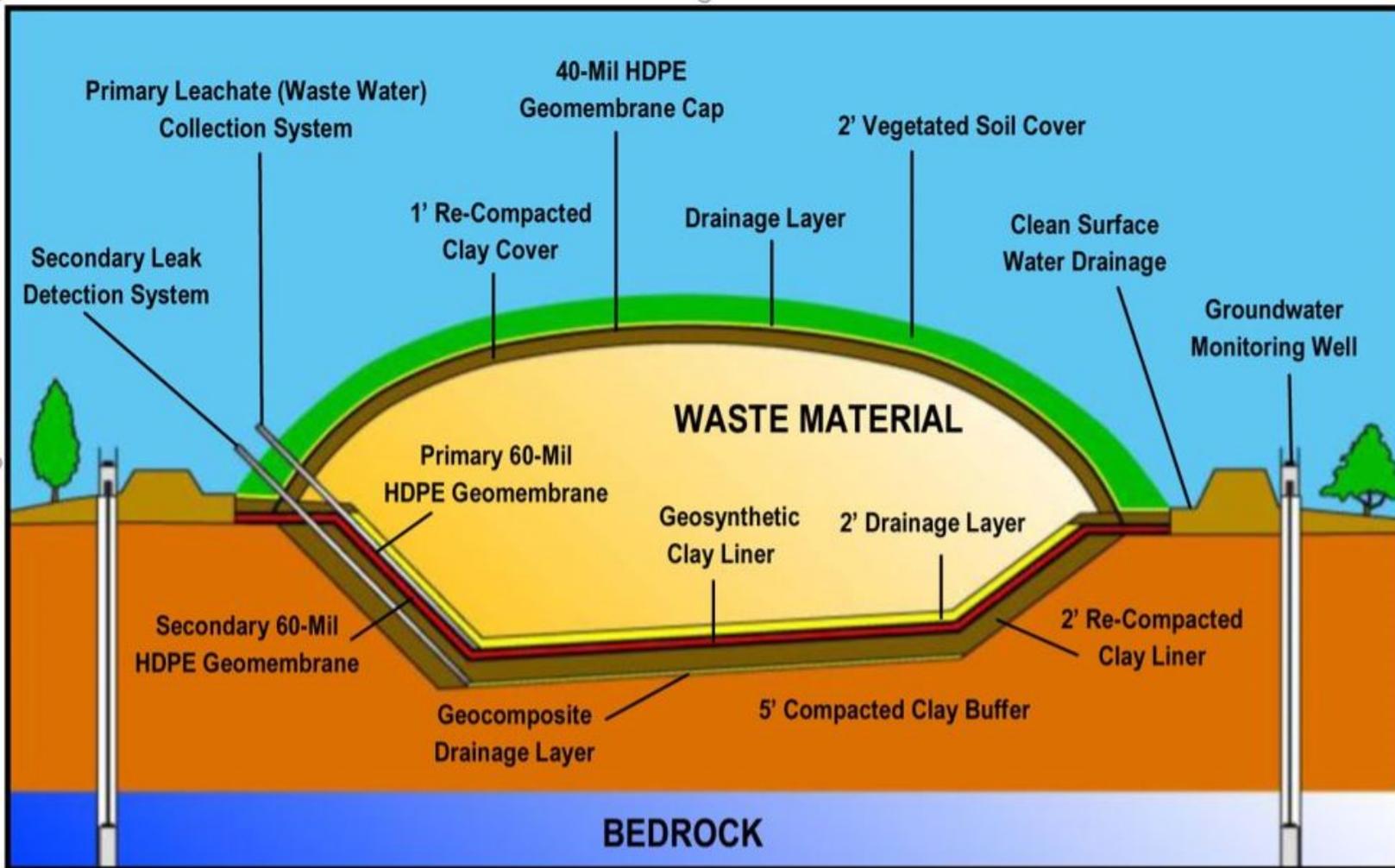
Proposed Landfill Location

Yellow line - new landfill boundary

Black dashed line – former ash impoundment boundary



Landfill Cross Section





Current View





Post Closure View



Submit comments by mail to:

Louise Hughes
N.C. Department of Environmental Quality
1601 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-1601

Submit comments by email to:

belewscreekcomments@ncdenr.gov - Include Closure Plan in the subject

The Closure Plan may be found at:

<https://deq.nc.gov/news/key-issues/coal-ash-excavation/belews-creek-steam-station-coal-ash-closure-plan>

