



N.C. Department of Environment and Natural Resources

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Contact: Susan Massengale
Phone: 919-807-6359

Amended coal ash contamination consent order filed with the court

RALEIGH – State officials have filed a revised consent order to address environmental compliance at Duke Energy’s Asheville Steam Electric Generating Plant in Buncombe County and the Riverbend Steam Station in Gaston County.

Earlier this year, the N.C. Department of Environment and Natural Resources filed lawsuits to require the utility to address wastewater discharge permit compliance issues at the power plants in Buncombe and Gaston counties. The state in July proposed a consent order that recommended the utility address the environmental compliance issues and pay fines. The state also gave the public 30 days to comment on the proposed consent order. The comment period ended Aug. 14.

The revised consent order includes the following changes to address public concerns:

- tightening timelines associated with various documents to be submitted by Duke Energy
- expanding parameters to be monitored at unpermitted discharges, or seeps
- establishing timelines for the division to review various documents submitted by Duke Energy
- and strengthening language explaining that corrective action will be required where regulations impose a duty to take corrective action.

The full text of the revised consent order is available on the Division of Water Resources website at: http://portal.ncdenr.org/web/wq/hot-topics/asheville_riverbend_steamstadoes. Changes from the draft version of the order are highlighted in blue in the document.

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