



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ADEM to Hold Public Hearing Tonight on Coal Ash Permits

*Hearings, Comment Periods Allow Public to Voice Concerns About CCR Plans
For Power Plants in Jefferson, Greene and Etowah Counties*

MONTGOMERY, Ala. – The Alabama Department of Environmental Management **tonight, Tuesday, Oct. 20**, will hold the first of three scheduled public hearings on permits drafted by ADEM to require electric utilities to safely close unlined coal combustion residuals (CCR) containments, or coal ash ponds, at their power plants and remediate any contaminated groundwater. The hearings, and the comment periods leading up to them, give the public the chance to raise concerns about the requirements in the draft permits.

Tonight's hearing will be for Alabama Power Co.'s Plant Miller in western Jefferson County. The hearing will be at 6 p.m. at the West Jefferson Town Hall, 7000 West Jefferson Road.

Other public hearings scheduled are Thursday, Oct. 22, in Eutaw, at the Carver Community Center, 720 Greensboro St., for Plant Greene County; and Thursday, Oct. 29, in Gadsden, at the Beck Conference Center, Gadsden State Community College, 1001 George Wallace Drive, for Plant Gadsden. Those hearings will also be at 6 p.m.

Because of the COVID-19 epidemic, special social distancing requirements will be in place. All attendees will be required to wear masks and will be subject to temperature screening prior to entering the hearing location. Space inside the hearing room will be restricted, and each speaker will be assigned a time slot.

ADEM encourages preregistration for those who wish to speak. You can preregister at <https://forms.gle/J6s1TN12c1NVJvY57>, or by calling 334-274-4201. Speakers are asked to provide either an email address or cell phone number so they can be notified of their approximate time slots.

You can also register on site. However, those who preregistered will be called to speak first.

In addition to speaking at the hearings, the public can also mail or email comments directly to ADEM during the current 35-day minimum comment periods. The comment periods will continue one week

past the date of the public hearings. All comments will be considered in the decisions to issue the permits, and ADEM will provide a response to each issue raised.

For more information about the CCR hearings, including how to submit comments, go online to <http://adem.alabama.gov/moreInfo/ccrinfo.cnt>.

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