Minutes

Environmental Management Commission Meeting
Alabama Department of Environmental Management Building
1400 Coliseum Boulevard
Montgomery, Alabama 36110-2400
December 13, 2019

This is to certify that the Minutes contained herein are a true and accurate account of actions taken by the Alabama Environmental Management Commission on December 13, 2019.

John (Jay) H. Masingill, III, Acting Chair

Alabama Environmental Management Commission

Certified this 14th day of February 2020.

Minutes

Environmental Management Commission Meeting Alabama Department of Environmental Management Building 1400 Coliseum Boulevard Montgomery, Alabama 36110-2400 December 13, 2019

Convened: 11:07 a.m. Adjourned: 11:47 a.m.

Part A

Transcript Word Index

Part B

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COL	nmission Meeting		December 13, 2019
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1	ALABAMA ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT	1	(WHEREUPON, proceedings began at
2	COMMISSION MEETING	2	11:07 a.m.)
3		3	CHAIRMAN MILLER: I'm going to
4		1	call the December 13th meeting of the
5		5	7-1-
6		6	The first order of business is the
7		-	consideration of the minutes from the meeting
8		1	from October 18th, 2019. These have been
9	ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT		circulated to all the Commissioners for their
10	Alabama Room		advanced perusal.
11	1400 Coliseum Boulevard	11	I will entertain a motion to adopt
12	Montgomery, Alabama 36110-2400	12	
13	December 13, 2019	13	VICE-CHAIR BROWN: So moved.
14	11:07 a.m.	14	DR. PERRY: Second.
15		15	CHAIRMAN MILLER: All in favor,
16		16	
17		17	(All Commissioners signify with
18		18	"aye.")
19		19	CHAIRMAN MILLER: All opposed?
20		20	(No response.)
21		21	CHAIRMAN MILLER: All right.
22		22	
23	Taken by: Victoria M. Castillo, ACCR No. 17		the coming year. We have had nominations for the
			the commission we have had normalized for the
	Page 2		Page 4
1	APPEARANCES	,	Personnel Committee with Mr. Tom Walters as
2			Chair, with Kevin McKinstry and Dr. Ruby Perry as
3	COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT:	1	members. And the Rulemaking Committee with
4	H. Lanier Brown, II, Esquire, Vice Chair	1	Lanier Brown as Chairman and John Masingill and
5	Samuel L. Miller, M.D., Chair	1	Mary Merritt as members.
6	John H. Masingill, III	6	Are there any further nominations?
7	Kevin McKinstry	7	(No response.)
8	Mary J. Merritt	8	CHAIRMAN MILLER: All right. I
9	Ruby L. Perry, D.V.M.	_	would
10	Thomas P. Walters, P.E.	10	VICE-CHAIR BROWN: I move to
11			accept the nominations to the committees as cited
12	ALSO PRESENT:	1	by the Chair.
13	Zack Wilson, AEMC Legal Counsel	13	MR. MASINGILL: Second.
14	Debi Thomas, ARMC Executive Assistant	14	CHAIRMAN MILLER: Any further
15	Lance R. LeFleur, ADEM Director	15	discussions?
16		16	(No response.)
17		17	CHAIRMAN MILLER: If not, I will
18		18	
19		19	(All Commissioners signify with
20		20	"aye.")
21		21	CHAIRMAN MILLER: All opposed,
21 22		21 22	

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1 CHAIRMAN MILLER: And now we're

- 2 going to call on Director LeFleur for his report.
- 3 DIRECTOR LeFLEUR: Thank you.
- 4 Good morning and welcome to the second meeting of
- 5 the Environmental Management Commission for
- 6 fiscal year 2020. Today's report will focus on
- 7 current issues related to three environmental
- 8 contaminants: Coal Combustion Residuals, per and
- 9 poly fluorinated alkyl substances known as PFAS,
- 10 and lead in drinking water.
- The first environmental contaminant
- 12 on which today's report will focus is Coal
- 13 Combustion Residuals, or CCR, sometimes referred
- 14 to as coal ash. This issue has increasingly been
- 15 in the news and a topic of concern. The concern
- 16 is with impoundments containing coal ash
- 17 material, especially those that are unlined where
- 18 contaminants can be released to groundwater.
- 19 Coal ash is an issue both nationally and here in
- 20 Alabama.
- 21 We begin with a description of what
- 22 makes up Coal Combustion Residuals. As the name
- 23 implies, CCR is the solid material remaining

- 1 final in 2015, but several portions were
 - 2 subsequently subjected to court challenges and
 - 3 those portions are currently in the process of
 - 4 being amended.
 - 5 The 2015 Federal CCR rule required
 - 6 utilities to have a record of tests of
 - 7 groundwater near all coal ash ponds no later than
 - 8 January 31, 2018, and to publish the findings on
 - 9 their website within 30 days. Upon disclosure
 - that releases to groundwater from CCR
 - 11 impoundments in Alabama had occurred, ADEM
 - 12 commenced enforcement actions which included
 - 13 assessing the maximum allowable monetary
 - 14 penalties and initiating the steps to remediate
 - 15 the impacted groundwater.
 - 16 In order to obtain state authority
 - 7 over the regulation of coal ash and expand on the
 - 18 Federal CCR rule, the Department proposed
 - 19 rulemaking to adopt a State CCR rule. At the
 - 20 April 2018 Alabama Environmental Management
 - 21 Commission meeting, the Commission approved the
 - 22 ADEM CCR rule. The State CCR rule was patterned
 - 23 after the Federal CCR rule. The ADEM CCR rule

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- 1 after the combustion of coal from the production
- 2 of electricity by electric generating utilities.
- 3 It is comprised of bottom ash, fly ash (the
- 4 particles that rise and are captured in a
- 5 baghouse or electrostatic precipitator), boiler
- 6 slag, and the solid material generated when the
- 7 flue gasses are subjected to a chemical reaction
- 8 to remove sulphur and other contaminants.
- Here are some of the characteristics
 of coal ash. Coal ash has been determined by EPA
- 11 to be non-hazardous. However, it does contain
- 12 hazardous constituents including lead, arsenic,
- 13 cadmium, barium, lithium.
- 14 Next, some significant historical
- 15 events related to coal ash. A large coal ash
- 16 spill at a TVA site in Kingston, Tennessee, in
- 17 2008 drew the attention of environmental
- 18 regulators and the nation to the CCR issue. In
- 19 2010, EPA published a draft Federal CCR rule to
- 20 address coal ash concerns. A second spill at the
- 21 Duke Energy facility in Dan River, North
- 22 Carolina, in 2014 reinforced concerns about coal
- 23 ash impoundments. The Federal CCR rule became

- 1 was submitted to EPA in June of 2018 for
- 2 approval. Approval by EPA requires the ADEM CCR
- 3 program to be, I quote, at least as protective as
- 4 the Federal CCR program, closed quote. EPA CCR
- 5 rule amendments to respond to court mandates are
- 6 going through the federal rulemaking process
- 7 which is expected to be complete in early 2020.
- 8 After EPA's rulemaking is complete and the
- 9 conforming amendments are made to the ADEM CCR
- 10 rule, EPA is anticipated to act on approving the
- 11 ADEM CCR rule. Until EPA approves the ADEM CCR
- 12 rule, CCR generators are required to comply with
- 13 both the State and the Federal CCR rules.
- The two primary issues related to

 CCR are the closure of unlined impoundments and
- 16 the remediation of groundwater contamination
- 17 caused by CCR. Both of these issues will be
- 18 addressed in the permit to be issued for each CCR
- 19 site in Alabama.
- This slide shows the nine sites in
- 21 Alabama where CCR have been deposited. On the
- 22 nine sites there are eleven surface impoundments
- 23 and three coal ash landfills that fall under the

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- 1 CCR rules. There are also two legacy units not
- 2 covered by the CCR rules. The six red dots show
- 3 sites with nine individual surface impoundments
- 4 that have not yet been closed, along with three
- 5 landfills that have not been closed. The blue
- 6 dots show the two sites where surface
- 7 impoundments subject to the CCR rules have
- 8 already been capped. However, these closures
- 9 have not yet received ADEM approval. The yellow
- 10 dots represent the two legacy units in Alabama
- 11 that are not currently covered by the Federal and
- 12 State CCR rules because they were closed before
- 13 the date to qualify for coverage by CCR rules.
- 14 Of the 16 total units in Alabama, five are lined
- 15 and will remain operational.
- The closure issue has received the
- 17 most attention nationally, and we will look at it
- 18 first. The adoption of the ADEM CCR rule
- 19 provided the authority to require the closure of
- 20 unlined CCR impoundments within the state. There
- 21 are two methods of closure allowable under the
- 22 Federal CCR rules and likewise under the ADEM CCR
- 23 rules. Clean closure is the removal of coal ash

9

- 1 groundwater; and, since most impoundments are
- 2 very near surface waterbodies, removal can move
- 3 the material away from those bodies of water.
 - On the con side, it takes much
- 5 longer to clean close because the material must
- 6 be moved rather than covered. It involves heavy
- 7 truck traffic for an extended period of time.
- 8 And the site to which the coal ash is delivered
- 9 can potentially have issues such as resistance by
- o those living near the new site.
- For closure-in-place, the pros are:
- 12 Faster exposure control; and, minimal truck
- .3 traffic and the risks associated with truck
- 14 traffic.
- 15 The cons include possible future
- 16 releases to groundwater and continued proximity
- 17 to surface waterbodies. You will note that the
- 18 cost of one method versus the other is not listed
- 19 in the pros and cons. The reason is that cost is
- 20 not a factor considered by ADEM in assessing
- 21 closure plans.
- There have been questions from the
- 23 public on the process and the opportunity for

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- 1 from an unlined impoundment and then recycling it
- 2 or placing it in a lined landfill. And the other
- 3 method is closure-in-place which is the covering
- 4 of the impoundment with an impervious cover
- 5 material. The footprint of the impoundment may
- 6 or may not be reduced by consolidation before
- 7 capping. Both methods require dewatering of the
- 8 coal ash material before closure.
- 9 EPA has determined that nationwide
- 10 approximately 31 percent of the unlined coal ash
- 11 impoundments will be clean closed. It should be
- 12 noted that some portion of the clean closures
- 13 will be the consolidation of one or more unlined
- 14 impoundments into another unlined impoundment
- 15 that will then be capped and closed-in-place.
- 16 North Carolina and Virginia have taken
- 17 legislative action to mandate the clean closure
- 18 method for all unlined impoundments in their
- 19 respective states.
- 20 There are pros and cons to each
- 21 closure method. For clean closure, the pros are:
- 22 Once the material is removed, there is no longer
- 23 the possibility of future releases to

- 1 public input on how closure plans are developed
- 2 and approved. There are a number of steps
- 3 involved. The process begins with a utility
- 4 submitting to ADEM a permit application which
- 5 includes proposed closure plans. This was done
- 6 in December of 2018. An iterative process then
- 7 takes place between ADEM and the utility to
- 8 assure the final closure plans meet all technical
- 9 regulatory requirements of the ADEM CCR rule.
- 10 This is underway and is expected to be complete
- 11 by mid year 2020. As is the case with every
- 12 permit from ADEM, these permits, including the
- 13 closure plans, must be protective of human health
- 14 and the environment. The technical regulatory
- 15 requirements for the closure of CCR impoundments
- 16 are consistent with the EPA and ADEM requirements
- 17 that have been in development and use for at
- 18 least 40 years for the closure of hazardous waste
- 19 sites. ADEM is encouraging CCR generators to go
- 20 beyond the minimum requirements of the CCR rule.
- After the utility submits a complete
- 22 and technically correct application, ADEM will
- 23 draft a permit with a closure plan for each

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- 1 impoundment site. The next step in the process
- 2 will involve the public. There will be a 35-day
- 3 public comment period on the draft permit
- 4 including the closure plan. And during the
- 5 public comment period, and following 35 days
- 6 notice, ADEM will hold a public hearing near each
- 7 impoundment site to receive comments on that
- 8 site's proposed permit. If the permit
- 9 application including the closure plan meets the
- 10 requirements of the Federal and State CCR rules.
- 11 it will be approved by ADEM and closure will be
- 12 commenced.
- 13 This next slide addresses the second
- 14 primary CCR issue, remediation. The groundwater
- 15 remediation requirement is the result of both an
- 16 enforcement action for unpermitted releases under
- 17 ADEM groundwater rules and the ADEM CCR rule.
- 18 State enforcement action was enabled when the
- 19 Federal CCR rule required mandatory groundwater
- to testing many CCD switz and the multipline of the
- 20 testing near CCR units and the publishing of the
- 21 testing results. Groundwater remediation is
- 22 required for all CCR impoundment sites where
- 23 groundwater contamination has occurred,

- 1 ADEM, the selected corrective measures are
 - 2 implemented. Groundwater remediation progress is
 - 3 monitored by ADEM and, if necessary, plans are
 - 4 adjusted during implementation to achieve ADEM
 - 5 cleanup standards.
 - As you can see, the process to
 - address coal ash issues in Alabama is well
 - 8 underway, but much is left to be done. Future
 - 9 reports will keep you and the public updated on
 - 10 progress. A video covering the points just made
 - 11 as well as additional information on CCR is
 - 12 available on our website by selecting "ADEM
 - 13 Programs" in the gray area at the top left, then
 - 14 clicking "Waste/Remediation" on the next display
 - 15 and scrolling down to "CCR."
 - 16 The second environmental contaminant
 - 17 being addressed in today's report is also an
 - 18 issue throughout the nation and here in Alabama
 - 19 and it involves per and poly fluorinated alkyl
 - 20 substances abbreviated as PFAS. This family of
 - 21 substances is characterized by a chemical bond
 - 22 between carbon and flourine that is exceptionally
 - 23 strong, making them very stable. Because they

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- 1 regardless of which closure method is used.
- 2 As with the development of closure
- 3 plans, the groundwater remediation portion of the
- 4 CCR permit requires a number of steps. The
- 5 process begins with the submission by the
- 6 impoundment operator of plans for sampling both
- 7 unimpacted and impacted groundwater near the
- 8 impoundment site. Upon approval of the sampling
- 9 plans by ADEM, sampling of the unimpacted
- 10 groundwater takes place and the normal background
- 11 levels of naturally occurring elements such as
- 12 arsenic, lead, barium, and so forth, in the
- 13 groundwater are determined. Next, the impacted
- 14 groundwater is sampled and assessed to determine
- 15 what levels of contamination above normal
- 16 background exist and the boundary of the
- 17 contamination.
- Next, an assessment of possible
- 19 corrective measures is performed to determine the
- 20 best alternative for obtaining results. The
- 21 utility will then hold public meetings near each
- 22 impoundment site to discuss the proposed
- 23 remediation plan for that site. Upon approval by

- 1 are so stable, they persist in the environment
- 2 which in turn allows them to accumulate in
- 3 humans.
- 4 We begin with some background and
- 5 concerns related to PFAS. This family of
- 6 chemicals has been produced and used since the
- 7 1940s. There are at least 5,000 chemical
- 8 compounds in this family. The stability and
- 9 other characteristics make them useful as
- 10 firefighting foams, oil and moisture resistant
- 11 food packaging, clothing fire retardants, high
- 12 temperature sealants and gasket materials, and
- 13 many other applications used by the public every
- 14 day. Until the early 2000s, these materials were
- 15 considered safe from a health perspective and
- 16 extremely beneficial for their usefulness. In
- 17 the early 2000s, regulators began investigating
- 18 potential health impacts of PFAS accumulating in
- 19 humans.
- 20 Around this time, high doses of PFAS
- 21 were found to cause reproductive and other
- 22 anomalies in lab animals. In 2009 EPA developed
- 23 a provisional health advisory for two PFAS

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- 1 compounds, PFOA and PFOS. EPA advised that
- 2 individuals, especially pregnant and nursing
- 3 mothers, who consume drinking water consistently
- 4 over a lifetime that has a concentration of more
- 5 than 400 parts per trillion of PFOA or 200 parts
- 6 per trillion of PFOS may have a higher risk of
- 7 adverse health impacts. In 2016 EPA reduced the
- 8 threshold for a lifetime of exposure health
- 9 advisory level to 70 parts per trillion for any
- 10 combination of PFOA and PFOS.
- 11 The regulation of PFAS is a
- 12 developing issue. Despite having issued a health
- 13 advisory for a lifetime of exposure, EPA has not
- 14 set a standard, called a Maximum Contaminant
- 15 Level or MCL, for PFOA, PFOS, or any other PFAS
- 16 compound in drinking water, nor has EPA set water
- 17 quality criteria or cleanup standards for soil
- 18 and groundwater. EPA is currently engaged in the
- 19 scientific and regulatory process to determine
- 20 the toxicity level of PFAS that will then allow
- 21 it to set standards. Without standards, ADEM has
- 22 no scientific basis upon which to set drinking
- 23 water MCLs, PFAS discharge limits, or PFAS

- 1 identifying primary and secondary sources of PFAS
- compounds present in Alabama.
- The Department required the
- development and implementation of a PFAS
- Reduction Plan at the one primary source of PFAS
- in Alabama, which is a manufacturer. The program
- was initiated in 2009, expanded in 2012, and in
- conjunction with EPA is being expanded again in
- 2019. The plan calls for continued monitoring
- 10 and timely reporting of all PFAS releases.
- 11 Continued employment of best management practices
- 12 and control technologies to minimize discharges
- 13 of PFAS including the installation and operation
- 14 of a Granulated Activated Carbon system and other
- 15 control measures to remove a very high percentage
- 16 of the PFAS from process wastewater. Performing
- 17 a comprehensive assessment of all locations where
- 18 PFAS compounds produced have been disposed of
- 19 both on site and off site. Undertaking an array
- 20 of studies to determine what PFAS compounds are
- 21 present in the environment in the vicinity of the
- 22 manufacturing facility including surface water,
- 23 groundwater, and soil. Undertaking toxicity

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- 1 cleanup standards. PFAS chemicals do fall under
- 2 the federal Toxic Substances Control Act, TSCA,
- 3 which is administered solely by EPA. Under TSCA,
- 4 EPA is able to restrict the discharge of
- 5 chemicals such as PFAS where toxicity has not
- 6 been determined.
- Although no PFAS drinking water 7
- standards, discharge limits, or cleanup standards
- 9 exist, the Department has nevertheless undertaken
- 10 a number of initiatives to address the PFAS issue
- 11 in Alabama. A program is in place to complete
- 12 the testing of all the public drinking water
- 13 systems in Alabama for the presence of a panel of
- 14 PFAS compounds. All public drinking water
- 15 systems where PFOA and PFOS concentrations in the
- 16 finished water are at or above the lifetime
- 17 exposure health advisory level have been detected
- 18 and are required to report that information to
- 19 their customers. Granulated Activated Carbon
- 20 systems have been or are being installed to
- 21 remove PFAS from those drinking water systems 22 reporting PFOA and PFOS at or above the lifetime
- 23 exposure health advisory level. ADEM is

- 1 studies for the PFAS manufactured at the
- 2 facility. And, finally, the PFAS Reduction Plan
- 3 will be updated in the future, in particular when
- 4 PFAS standards are developed by EPA.
- 5 Additionally, at the request of ADEM, a
- 6 comprehensive analysis of PFAS compounds from
- interstate sources on the Coosa River system is
- being performed by EPA.
 - The third and final environmental
- 10 contaminant of considerable public concern being
- 11 addressed in today's report is lead in drinking
- water. This is an update on the lead testing and
- 13 control program the Department has underway.
- Lead is below detection levels in the drinking
- water produced by all public drinking water
- systems in Alabama. However, lead can enter the
- drinking water consumed by the public if it is
- delivered through piping or fixtures that contain
- lead at or near the point of delivery. Although
- lead piping and lead containing fixtures have
- 21 been banned for many years, there are some older
- piping and fixtures that were placed in service
- 23 before the ban.

23 mic.

C	ommission Meeting		December 13, 2019
	Page 21		Page 23
	The Department has undertaken a	1	MR. WALTERS: How do I turn on
	2 number of initiatives that were not required by	2	the mic?
	3 statute or regulation to address public concerns	3	There it is. Now I can see. I
	4 over lead in drinking water. In 2016, ADEM and	4	adjusted the microphone.
	5 the State Department of Education initiated a	5	DIRECTOR LeFLEUR: I saw that.
	6 program to test for lead in drinking water from	6	I saw that.
	7 fixtures at every public school in Alabama. It	7	MR. WALTERS: I thought. I
	8 was developed to provide an added level of	8	thought. All right. So, anyhow, in the clean
	9 protection for school aged children who are the	9	closure you listed a pro as it's obviously being
1	o most vulnerable to the adverse impacts of lead.	10	taken away from the surface water impoundment or
1	1 At the time it was one of only two or three such		proximity. Which, by my interpretation, would be
3	2 programs in the nation. The testing has now been	12	after it's completed, which as you stated is a
	3 expanded to cover day care facilities and all	13	lengthy process.
- 1	4 Pre-K programs in the state. The program has	14	DIRECTOR LeFLEUR: Correct.
- 1	5 been very successful. Of the nearly 5,300	15	MR. WALTERS: On the other side,
1	6 fixtures tested, 30 (less than six-tenths of one	16	from the standpoint of cap-in-place, would not it
1	7 percent) tested above the action level for the	17	also, after it's capped-in-place, remove it in
-	8 presence of lead and each of those fixtures was		essence from its although it still remains
	9 either replaced or taken out of service.	19	close to the surface water, since it's capped,
1.	Any interested parent or other party	20	they seem almost equivalent once the closure is
- 1	1 can view the results for any tested school on the	l .	completed.
- 1	2 ADEM website by going to the "What's Happening in	22	DIRECTOR LeFLEUR: You're
2	3 Your County" icon on the front of the webpage.	23	correct. Removing the material means there's
	Page 22		Page 24
	1 In Alabama parents can enjoy the peace of mind	,	nothing there that can contaminate groundwater.
•	2 knowing the drinking water at school has been		Whereas, in the cap-in-place if the cap were to
4	3 tested and shown to be safe. Recently, EPA has	ı	fail or something such as that then there would
	4 proposed to update the federal rule dealing with	Ł	be that potential.
- 1	5 lead in drinking water and the new rules would	5	MR. WALTERS: So really both
	6 require all public schools to be tested in a	6	methods, until it's completed, are still
	7 manner similar to the testing here in Alabama.		susceptible to the risk of surface water
	8 In fact, I am pleased to report that in	8	contamination for all practical purposes, until
	9 recognition of Alabama's leadership, EPA selected	9	it's completed? All right. Thanks for that
	o Montgomery, Alabama, as the site to announce the	10	clarification.
3	1 new rule in EPA Region 4, which is made up of the	11	DIRECTOR LeFLEUR; Okay. Thank
1	2 eight southeastern states.	12	you.
1	3 1	13	CHAIRMAN MILLER: Any further
	4 will be pleased to answer any questions you may	14	questions?
	5 have.	15	MR. WALTERS: Thanks for showing
1	, 1		me where the button is.
	7 from Commissioners?	17	CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay. All
1		1	right. Thank you, Mr. Director.
1 .	9 It has to do with the commentary on the CCR	19	DIRECTOR LeFLEUR: Thank you.
-	o closure methods. And you listed a pro I think for the removal clean closure as	20	CHAIRMAN MILLER: The next item
2			is the report from the Commission Chair, and I don't have anything to report at this point other
	4 CHARWIAN WILLER. I UII OH YOUF	42	don't have anything to report at this point other

23 than the fact that we are considering having some

Page 25 Page 27 1 seminars for the Commission on the PFAS problem. 1 morning. 2 And hopefully in the next few months we can get MR. MULLEN: Thank you, ladies 3 that done. 3 and gentlemen. First, I want to thank you for Is there any other business that any serving, being out in this weather and doing this of the Commissioners would like to bring forward? sort of thing. I also want to thank you-all for 6 (No response.) probably, after what happened at the Public 7 CHAIRMAN MILLER: We have future Service Commission -- probably being the best 8 business sessions lined up at February 14th, state agency for handling public comment and 9 April 10th, June 12th, August 14th, October 9th, allowing public comment. So I thank you for the 10 and December 11th of 2020. As you will notice, opportunity to make that comment. 11 these are all the second Friday of the month I hate to be repetitive, but I want 11 12 rather than the third Friday because of some new 12 to really go back once more to the statement of 13 rulemaking problems. your mission statement to ensure that all I will for sure not be here on 14 14 citizens in the state have a safe, healthful, and 15 February 14th. I don't know if that's -- I've productive environment. You know, ADEM has had a 16 asked Lanier if he's going to be here. As far as number of fumbles recently that really don't meet 17 he knows, he will be I think. that statement. Opposing the ABC Coke site But are there any other conflicts 18 18 listing. I think there were some fumbles of 19 that you know of? 19 notification and how to notify people about the MR. WALTERS: I know I won't be 20 20 PFAS notification. Just had one just a minute 21 here on August 14th, but that's only other. ago. You know, you're talking about the coal ash 22 MR. McKINSTRY: I will miss the 22 hazard as if it's only a groundwater hazard. 23 After you just had a mention of the failures in 23 February 14th meeting as well. Page 26 CHAIRMAN MILLER: You will? 1 1 Kingston and the failures in North Carolina, when

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Well, we'll still have a quorum I 2 3 guess. All right. Very good. All right. Now, let's see. Let's 5 adopt these proposed Commission dates, if everybody is all right with doing that. Do I have a motion to adopt the 7 hearing dates? 8 VICE-CHAIR BROWN: So moved. 9 10 MR. MASINGILL: Second. CHAIRMAN MILLER: All right. 11 Any further discussion? (No response.) 13 CHAIRMAN MILLER: All in favor 14 say "aye." 15 (All Commissioners signify with 16 17 "ave.") CHAIRMAN MILLER: All opposed, 18 19 "no." (No response.) 20 21 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay. Our 22 next item here is public comment period. We have 23 a request from Michael Mullen to speak this

2 these large facilities are sitting right next to 3 our waterbodies, one of them not far upstream from Mobile Bay. The risk of contamination is 5 horrendous. You know, I'm not a risk assessment person. But even if there's a small risk of it happening, when the consequences are very high those risks have to be considered. ADEM has had some fumbles in promptly notifying the public of spills into recreational waters that involve bacteriological contamination. It's bent its own rules in landfill permitting. It bent its own rules or violated the state rule for landfill cover. 14 I'm going to go back today and 15 inspect a construction site which has been out of 16 compliance on a regular basis since -- I don't know whether it's the end of 2018 or the beginning of this year. And I can almost

guarantee you it's going to be out of compliance

again because of inadequate BMPs. I inspected

Tennessee Riverkeeper as a CPSC that got a notice

one -- a huge site in the Tennessee Valley for

1			
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1	in February of this year and still was out of	1	neighbor's car, it's unintentional. Even if you
2			were negligent in doing that, your insurance
3	So it's hardly as if the Department		company is going to cover it. But if you go out
4			with a sledgehammer and you beat your neighbor's
5	the mark on meeting that mission statement.		car down, the insurance company is going to say,
6	Things like coal ash, things like climate change		That was intentional, we're not going to do that,
7	that's going to affect everything with water		we're not going to cover that. The insurance
8	quality, you guys are missing the boat, too,	8	companies say, We all know, everybody knows that
9	because you're not doing your job as far as	9	these unlined ponds pollute the groundwater.
10	making policy.	10	Mr. Walters your question earlier
11	Now, I know you don't have resources	11	about a con on the cap-in-place that it the
12	to do it. But you need to be finding the		way Mr. LeFleur phrased it was it may pollute the
13	resources to go out and get some of our	13	groundwater. It may actually have a failure and
14	university people, our consultants, and	14	ruin the river, but it will, it does pollute the
15	developing policy. So we don't have pending	15	groundwater forever. That is, show me, please,
16	disasters like we may have with the coal ash.	16	if you know of one, show me a capped-in-place
17	It's just amazing to me that nobody mentions the	17	facility that does not pollute the groundwater.
18	risk of failure of those containment ponds. It's	18	Name one anywhere. There's not one.
19	like the groundwater is only there. It's sort of	19	The French philosopher Voltaire
	like if it doesn't come from EPA, we're not going	20	said, If you can Those who can make you
21	to address it. You have a duty. You have a duty	21	believe an absurdity can make you commit an
22	to the state as Commissioners to provide a safe,	22	atrocity. It's absurd to even suggest that a
23	healthy, productive environment for the people of	23	capped-in-place, unlined coal ash pond is not
	Page 30		Page 32
		1	
1	Alabama. And that's all I have. Thank you.	1	
1 2	Alabama. And that's all I have. Thank you. CHAIRMAN MILLER: Thank you,	1	going to pollute the groundwater. It is. That's
2		1	going to pollute the groundwater. It is. That's just a fact. They all do.
2	CHAIRMAN MILLER: Thank you,	2	going to pollute the groundwater. It is. That's just a fact. They all do. So if you knowingly believe or
2 3 4	CHAIRMAN MILLER: Thank you, Mr. Mullen.	2 3 4	going to pollute the groundwater. It is. That's just a fact. They all do.
2 3 4 5	CHAIRMAN MILLER: Thank you, Mr. Mullen. Mayor McCarty, you didn't quite make	2 3 4 5	going to pollute the groundwater. It is. That's just a fact. They all do. So if you knowingly believe or acquiesce to that and you leave that coal ash
2 3 4 5	CHAIRMAN MILLER: Thank you, Mr. Mullen. Mayor McCarty, you didn't quite make it on the list, but we're going to ask you to	2 3 4 5 6	going to pollute the groundwater. It is. That's just a fact. They all do. So if you knowingly believe or acquiesce to that and you leave that coal ash unlined in place, you are committing or at least
2 3 4 5 6 7	CHAIRMAN MILLER: Thank you, Mr. Mullen. Mayor McCarty, you didn't quite make it on the list, but we're going to ask you to speak.	2 3 4 5 6 7	going to pollute the groundwater. It is. That's just a fact. They all do. So if you knowingly believe or acquiesce to that and you leave that coal ash unlined in place, you are committing or at least aiding and abetting an atrocity. And that's not
2 3 4 5 6 7 8	CHAIRMAN MILLER: Thank you, Mr. Mullen. Mayor McCarty, you didn't quite make it on the list, but we're going to ask you to speak. MAYOR McCARTY: I struggled	2 3 4 5 6 7	going to pollute the groundwater. It is. That's just a fact. They all do. So if you knowingly believe or acquiesce to that and you leave that coal ash unlined in place, you are committing or at least aiding and abetting an atrocity. And that's not hyperbole. I've got people living right on top
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1	STATE OF ALABAMA)	
2	COUNTY OF ELMORE)	
3		
4	I hereby certify that the above	
5	proceedings were taken down by me and transcribed	
6	by me using computer-aided transcription and that	
7	the above is a true and accurate transcript of	
8	said proceedings taken down by me and transcribed	
9	by me.	
10	I further certify that I am neither	
11	of kin nor of counsel to any of the parties nor	
12	in anywise financially interested in the outcome	
13	of this case.	
14	I further certify that I am duly	
15	licensed by the Alabama Board of Court Reporting	
16	as a Certified Court Reporter as evidenced by the	4
17	ACCR number following my name found below.	
18		,
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20	Vic. Com	
21	1 setono Castello	
22	VICTORIA CASTILLO, ACCR #17, 9/30/20	
23	FREELANCE COURT REPORTER	
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Commission Meeting		December 13, 2019
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Part B

Attachment Index

Attachment 1 Agenda

Attachment 2 Order to adopt motion to accept nominations to committees as cited by Chair (Agenda Item 2)

Attachment 3 Director's Slides (Agenda Item 3)



AGENDA*

MEETING OF THE

ALABAMA ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT COMMISSION

DATE: December 13, 2019

TIME: 11:00 a.m.

LOCATION: Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM) Building

Alabama Room (Main Conference Room)

1400 Coliseum Boulevard

Montgomery, Alabama 36110-2400

	ITEM	<u>PAGE</u>
1.	Consideration of minutes of meeting held on October 18, 2019**	2
2.	Elections	2
3.	Report from the ADEM Director	2
4.	Report from the Commission Chair	2
5.	Other business	2
6.	Future business sessions	2
PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD		
Brief statements by members of the public registered to speak		

^{*} The Agenda for this meeting will be available on the ADEM website, <u>www.adem.alabama.gov</u>, under Environmental Management Commission.

^{**} The Minutes for this meeting will be available on the ADEM website under Environmental Management Commission.

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON OCTOBER 18, 2019

2. ELECTIONS

The Commission will elect Chairs and Members of the Commission's Personnel and Rulemaking Committees.

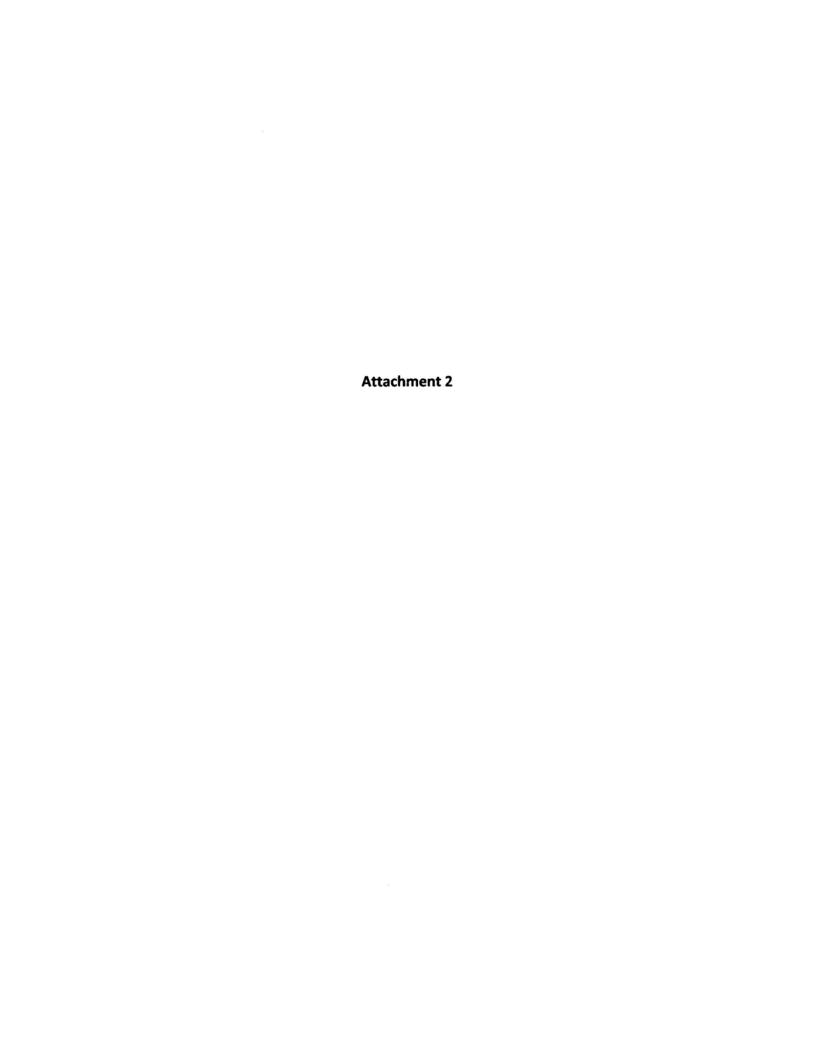
- 3. REPORT FROM THE ADEM DIRECTOR
- 4. REPORT FROM THE COMMISSION CHAIR
- OTHER BUSINESS
- 6. FUTURE BUSINESS SESSIONS

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

BRIEF STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC REGISTERED TO SPEAK

Members of the public that wish to make a brief statement at a Commission meeting may do so by first signing in on a register maintained by the Commission office prior to each regularly scheduled meeting. The register will close ten minutes prior to convening each each meeting of the Commission. Following completion of all agenda items, the Commission Chair will call on members of the public wishing to make a statement in the order their names appear on the register. Speakers are encouraged to limit their statement to matters that directly relate to the Commission's functions. Speakers will be asked to observe a three minute time limit. While an effort will be made to hear all members of the public signed on the register, the Commission may place reasonable limitations on the number of speakers to be heard. (Guideline 11, Guidelines for Public Comment).

The Guidelines for Public Comment are used in the application of ADEM Administrative Code 335-2, Environmental Management Commission Regulations, Rule 335-2-3-.05, Agenda and Public Participation. The Guidelines for Public Comment serve to educate and inform the public as to how the Commission interprets and intends to apply the Rule. The revised Rule 335-2-3-.05 was effective October 7, 2016.



BEFORE THE ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT COMMISSION OF THE ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

MOTION

Accept nominations to committees as cited by Chair

ORDER

This cause having come before the Environmental Management Commission pursuant to the above motion, and having considered the same, the Commission hereby ORDERS,

ADJUDGES, and DECREES as follows:

- 1. That the above motion is hereby adopted; and
- 2. That a copy of the list of committees is attached and made a part hereof; and
- That this action has been taken and this Order shall be deemed rendered effective as of the date shown below.

Environmental Management Commission Order Page 2

ISSUED this 13th day of December 2019.

Approved: Commissioner Commissioner Commissioner Commissioner	Commissioner Commissioner Commissioner Commissioner
DISAPPROVED:	
Commissioner	Commissioner
Commissioner	

This is to certify that this Order is a true and accurate account of the actions taken by the Environmental Management Commission on this 13th day of December 2019.

Samuel L. Miller, Chair

Environmental Management Commission Certified this 13th day of December 2019

Alabama Environmental Management Commission 2020 Committees

Personnel Committee

Chair: Tom Walters

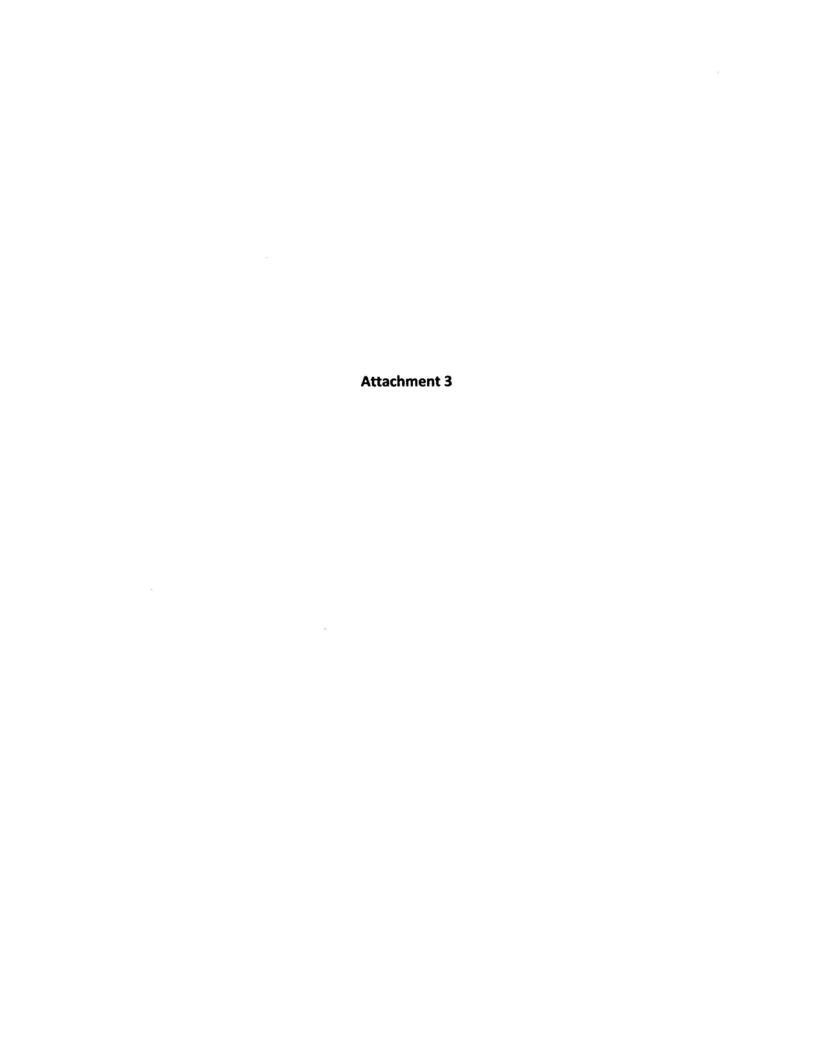
Members: Kevin McKinstry

Ruby Perry

Rulemaking Committee

Chair: Lanier Brown

Members: Jay Masingill Mary Merritt





Coal Combustion Residuals (CCR)

Alabama Department Of Environmental Management

What are Coal Combustion Residuals?

- Bottom ash
- Fly ash
- Boiler slag
- Flue gas desulfurization materials



Characteristics of CCR

- EPA determined CCR not hazardous.
- Hazardous constituents:
 - Lead
 - Arsenic
 - Cadmium
 - Barium
 - Lithium

Alabama Department Of Environmental Management **Environmental Management**

Significant Historical CCR Events

- 2008 TVA Kingston, TN coal ash spill.
- 2010 Draft EPA CCR rule.
- · 2014 Duke Energy Dan River, NC coal ash spill.
- · 2015 "Final" EPA CCR rule later remanded for amendments.

ADEM =

Alabama Department Of Environmental Management

Significant Historical CCR Events

- CCR groundwater testing report complete by January 2018 and published by March 2018.
- February 2018 ADEM Enforcement action commenced.

ADEM

Alabama Department Of Environmental Management

ADEM CCR rule

- April 2018 ADEM CCR rule adopted.
- Patterned after Federal CCR rule.
- June 2018 submitted to EPA for approval.
- EPA approval requires "at least as protective as the Federal CCR program".



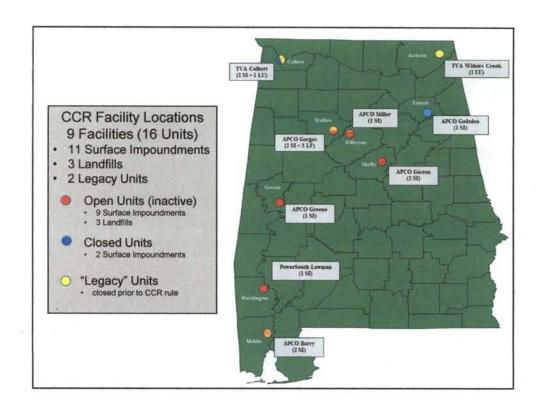
ADEM CCR rule

- EPA CCR rule out for public comment early 2020.
- EPA action on ADEM CCR rule after CCR rules amended.
- CCR generators required to comply with both State and Federal rules.

Alabama Department Of **Environmental Management**

Primary CCR Issues

- Closure of unlined impoundments.
- Remediation of groundwater caused by CCR.
- Closure and remediation to be addressed in ADEM environmental permit.



Closure

- Authority to require is ADEM CCR rule.
- Two approved closure methods:
 - · Clean closure
 - Closure-in-place
- Both methods require dewatering before closure.



Closure

- Nationally 31% of CCR units to be Clean Closed.
- North Carolina and Virginia legislatively mandate Clean Closure

Alabama Department Of Environmental Management

Pros and Cons of Closure Methods

- Clean Closure:
 - · Pros:
 - Stop releases to groundwater
 - Away from surface water bodies
 - Cons:
 - Takes longer
 - Truck traffic
 - New siting issues



Pros and Cons of Closure Methods

- Closure-in-Place:
 - · Pros:
 - Faster exposure control
 - Minimal truck traffic risk
 - Cons:
 - Possible continued contact with groundwater
 - Continued proximity to water bodies

Alabama Department Of **Environmental Management**

Permit (Closure) Approval Process

- Utility submits permit application with proposed closure method - December 2018
- · Review and revision to meet technical regulatory requirements - Midyear 2020
- · Must be protective of human health and the environment and comply with Federal and State CCR rules.



Permit (Closure) Approval Process

- ADEM will draft permit with closure plan.
- Public involvement:
 - ADEM public comment period of 35 days
 - ADEM public hearings following 35 days prior notice
- If permit application, including closure plan, meets legal requirements it will be approved and closure commenced.

Alabama Department Of **Environmental Management**

Remediation

- Required by enforcement action and CCR rule.
- Enforcement action enabled by Federal CCR requirement to test groundwater and publish.
- Remediation required for all releases regardless of closure method.



Remediation Steps

- Submission & approval of sampling plans.
- Determine naturally occurring groundwater background element levels.
- · Determine levels of contamination and boundary.

Alabama Department Of Environmental Management

Remediation Steps

- Assess and select corrective measures.
- Public meetings to review proposed remediation plans.
- Upon ADEM approval remediation commenced.
- Adjust implementation as needed to achieve cleanup standards.



Per and Poly Fluorinated Alkyl Substances (PFAS)

Alabama Department Of **Environmental Management**

PFAS Background and Concerns

- Manmade family of chemicals since 1940s.
- At least 5000 chemicals.
- Very stable with useful properties.
- Until 2000s considered safe.
- · Health impacts studies due to bioaccumulation.



PFAS Background and Concerns

- High doses cause anomalies in lab animals.
- 2009 EPA Life time exposure health advisory.
- 2016 EPA Life time exposure health advisory threshold lowered.

Alabama Department Of **Environmental Management**

Regulation of PFAS

- · No MCL, Water Quality, or Cleanup standards by EPA.
- EPA doing toxicity research to develop standards
- Only regulation available is federally administered TSCA discharge restriction.

ADEM PFAS Testing & Control Initiatives

- Testing all public drinking water systems for PFAS.
- PFAS concentrations above EPA health advisory must be reported to customers.
- Identifying primary and secondary sources of PFAS in Alabama.

Alabama Department Of Environmental Management

ADEM PFAS Testing & Control Initiatives

- Implementing PFAS Reduction Plan at manufacturer (primary source):
 - Initiated program in 2009; updated 2012 & 2019
 - Required reporting of all PFAS releases
 - BMP to control releases including GAC & RO
 - Complete assessment of disposal locations on site and off site



ADEM PFAS Testing & Control Initiatives

- · Investigate presence of PFAS in surface water, groundwater, and soil
- · Toxicity studies
- · Ongoing enforcement action
- EPA comprehensive analysis of PFAS from interstate sources (secondary sources).



Alabama Department Of Environmental Management

Lead Testing in Schools

ADEM Lead Testing & Control Initiatives

- 2016 test all public schools in Alabama.
- 2019 expanded to test Pre-K and daycares.
- 5,292 fixtures tested 30 required action.
- Publicly reporting results.
- Federal update and recognition of Alabama.