

Public Hearing Statement
Alabama Power Company
Barry Steam Electric Plant
NPDES Permit No. AL0002879

The Industrial Section within ADEM's Water Division is responsible for developing and regulating the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System or NPDES program for industrial sources. The NPDES program addresses water pollution by regulating point sources that discharge pollutants into waters of the state.

The Department exercises authority under the Alabama Water Pollution Control Act and the Alabama Environmental Management Act, to administer and enforce water pollution control and water quality regulations. The Department also has the authority to implement federal water pollution control regulations.

This hearing concerns the proposed draft NPDES permit reissuance for the Alabama Power Company Barry Steam Electric Plant located in Bucks, Alabama. The draft NPDES permit, as public noticed, would regulate the following:

Discharges from once through cooling water, cooling tower blowdown, and fire protection system waters discharging through Outfall DSN001 to the Mobile River which has a designated use classification of Fish & Wildlife;

Discharges from the low volume wastewater (LVWW) system, the ash pond dewatering treatment system, and the pressure relief well treatment system including low volume wastewaters, sanitary wastewaters, chemical metal cleaning wastes, cooling tower blowdown, coal pile runoff, Flue-Gas Desulfurization (FGD) wastewaters, ash pond

landfill leachate, remote submerged chain conveyor (RSCC) system overflow, miscellaneous cooling waters, vehicle rinse waters, ash pond dewatering and decanting wastewaters, pressure relief well wastewaters, fire protection system waters, and stormwater runoff associated with electric power generation discharging through Outfall DSN002 to the Mobile River;

Discharges from the low volume wastewater system including low volume wastewaters, sanitary wastewaters, chemical metal cleaning wastes, cooling tower blowdown, coal pile runoff, FGD wastewaters, ash pond landfill leachate, RSCC system overflow, miscellaneous cooling waters, vehicle rinse waters, fire protection system waters, and stormwater runoff associated with electric power generation discharging through Outfall DSN003 to the Mobile River;

Discharges from Lagoon A including coal pile runoff, low volume wastewaters, concrete truck washout wastewaters, carwash wastewaters, fire protection system waters, and stormwater runoff associated with electric power generation discharging through Outfall DSN004 to the Mobile River;

Discharges from stormwater runoff associated with electric power generation and fire protection system waters discharging through Outfalls DSN010 and DSN019 to the Mobile River;

Discharges from intake screen backwash and fire protection system waters discharging through Outfalls DSN011 and DSN012 to the Mobile River;

Discharges from stormwater runoff associated with electric power generation, stormwater runoff from the administrative building and parking lot, and fire protection system waters discharging through Outfall DSN013 to the Mobile River; and

Discharges from stormwater runoff from the closed ash pond footprint and fire protection system waters discharging through Outfalls DSN020 and DSN021 to the Mobile River.

Alabama Power Company has filed a request for the continuation of a thermal variance established under Section 316(a) of the Federal Clean Water Act which provides for alternative limitations for the thermal discharges associated with once through cooling water. At this time, the Department has proposed the continuance of the April - November 108.0 °F monthly average and 112.0 °F daily maximum thermal limitations and the December – March 84.5 °F monthly average and 94.5 °F daily maximum thermal limitations established in the 316(a) thermal variance

At this time, the Department has determined that the cooling water intake structure represents the interim best technology available to minimize adverse environmental impact in accordance with Section 316(b) of the Federal Clean Water Act.

The terms and conditions of the proposed draft permit have been developed by ADEM in accordance with applicable state and federal regulations, which are designed to be protective of human health and the environment.

The Department has made a preliminary determination that compliance by Alabama Power Company with the terms and conditions of the proposed draft NPDES permit will not result in violations of applicable State water quality standards designed to protect human health and the environment. This preliminary determination will be reconsidered after all comments are received and reviewed.