

RESOLUTION

**A RESOLUTION OF THE GOVERNING AUTHORITY OF DEKALB COUNTY,
GEORGIA REQUESTING STRICT REGULATION OF COAL COMBUSTION
RESIDUALS**

WHEREAS, Coal Ash stored in unlined wet ponds across the United States and Southeast poses a significant risk to the health of people and the natural environment of this nation; and

WHEREAS, Coal Ash contains at least twenty five (25) heavy metals, carcinogens, and radioactive elements that are easily introduced to and transported by water and can easily become hazards to human health when ingested; and

WHEREAS, the access to clean water is a critical requirement of the County's visitors, residents, employees and economy; and

WHEREAS, the United States Environmental Protection Agency downgraded the relative hazard classification of Coal Ash in order to promote the relocation of Coal Ash from dangerous, unlined ash ponds in Georgia and across the country;

WHEREAS, the Board of Natural Resources recently adopted rules governing the storage of Coal Ash in utility owned facilities and Municipal Solid Waste landfills; and

WHEREAS, these rules are inadequate in that they allow utilities to "cap in place" existing unlined ash ponds and to move Coal Ash into lined Municipal Solid Waste landfills without any further evaluation regarding site suitability; and

WHEREAS, Coal Ash ponds and Municipal Solid Waste landfills are located in rural areas and contamination from these sites disproportionately affects disadvantaged communities; and

WHEREAS, there has reportedly been a recent surge in the transport and deposit of coal ash from nearby states, including North Carolina, South Carolina and Florida, into Georgia;

WHEREAS, local governments should be able to protect residents against surface and groundwater contamination from neighboring communities through ordinances, based on local conditions and resources at stake.

NOW, THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED BY THE COUNTY GOVERNING AUTHORITY IN THE STATE OF GEORGIA, AS FOLLOW:

The storage and transportation of Coal Ash within the State of Georgia should be strictly regulated for the protection of Georgia's citizens, its waterways, and its landscape; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Georgia General Assembly should amend existing state laws to better protect Georgia's citizens, waterways, and landscapes from the dangers of Coal Ash; **and**

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Governor of the State of Georgia should sign and approve such legislation.

ADOPTED by the DeKalb County Board of Commissioners, this ____ day of _____, 2019.

JEFF RADER
Presiding Officer
Board of Commissioners
DeKalb County, Georgia

APPROVED by the Chief Executive Officer of DeKalb County, this ____ day of _____, 2019.

MICHAEL L. THURMOND
Chief Executive Officer
DeKalb County, Georgia

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

BARBARA SANDERS-NORWOOD, CCC
Clerk

VIVIANE H. ERNSTES
County Attorney