



DeKalb County Government

Manuel J. Maloof Center
1300 Commerce Drive
Decatur, Georgia 30030

Agenda Item

File ID: 2017-1227

Substitute

11/7/2017

Public Hearing: YES NO

Department: Board of Commissioner - District 5

SUBJECT:

Commission District(s): All

A resolution of the DeKalb County Board of Commissioners requesting strict regulation of the transport and storage of Coal Combustion Residuals within the State of Georgia

Information Contact: Commissioner Mereda Davis Johnson

Phone Number: 404-371-2159

PURPOSE:

To urge the State of Georgia to provide strict regulations for the storage and transportation of Coal Ash within the State of Georgia in order to protect the state's and DeKalb County's citizens, waterways, and landscape. Further the resolution is to urge the Georgia General Assemble to amend existing state laws to better protect the state's and DeKalb County's citizens, waterways, and landscapes from the dangers of Coal Ash.

NEED/IMPACT:

To protect the citizens, waterways and environment of DeKalb County citizens.

FISCAL IMPACT:

N/A

RECOMMENDATION:

To approve the resolution and authorize the chief executive officer to execute all necessary documents.....

**A RESOLUTION OF DEKALB COUNTY, GEORGIA REQUESTING STRICT
REGULATION OF THE STORAGE OF COAL COMBUSTION RESIDUALS
("COAL ASH") WITHIN THE STATE OF GEORGIA, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNTY GOVERNING AUTHORITY, IN THE STATE OF GEORGIA, AS FOLLOWS:

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.

KATHIE GANNON
Presiding Officer
Board of Commissioners
DeKalb County, Georgia

APPROVED by the Chief Executive Officer of DeKalb County, this _____ day of _____, 2017.

MICHAEL L. THURMOND
Chief Executive Officer
DeKalb County, Georgia

ATTEST:

BARBARA SANDERS-NORWOOD, CCC
Clerk to the Board of Commissioners and
Chief Executive Officer
DeKalb County, Georgia

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

O. V. BRANTLEY
County Attorney
DeKalb County, Georgia