

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

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VIA E-MAIL AND OVERNIGHT DELIVERY

Mr. Stephen Hoffman
Office of Resource Conservation and
Recovery (5304P)
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
2733 South Crystal Drive, Fifth Floor
Arlington, Virginia 22202

Re: Final Safety Inspection Report for Plant Barry

Dear Mr. Hoffman:

By a letter dated April 20, 2011, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA") provided to Alabama Power Company ("APC") the final report regarding certain facilities for the management of coal combustion byproducts at APC's Plant Barry ("Final Report"). EPA's Final Report was prepared on behalf of EPA by O'Brien & Gere, LLC, and was dated December 8, 2010.

For decades, APC has gone to great lengths to ensure that its structures and practices for the management of coal combustion byproducts are safe and protective of human health and the environment. We are pleased that EPA's on-site inspection and document review have confirmed that APC's facilities are well built, well maintained, and well run. As noted in the Final Report, "Acceptable performance is expected under all loading conditions." The report further notes as follows: "The owner has implemented regular inspections and maintenance which enable the impoundment to be kept in good working order." Plant Barry's operating procedures do not impact the integrity of the impoundment structures. Relevant records and documents are maintained in good order, and inspections are performed in an appropriate manner and frequency. Accordingly, EPA's report demonstrates that there is no discernible threat of a release of coal combustion byproducts at Plant Barry.

The Final Report includes recommendations on a number of minor issues. APC generally concurs in the recommendations and offers the following additional comments:

- Recommendation pertaining to embankment maintenance: APC has taken action to respond to recommendations included in the 2010 inspection report of the Hydro Services group of Southern Company Services.
- Recommendation pertaining to monitoring and future inspection: APC continues to execute its regular monitoring and inspection activities, which includes monitoring of the area noted in the report's recommendation.

APC appreciates this opportunity to comment. We continue to cooperate on a voluntary basis with EPA's efforts to gather information regarding the management of coal combustion byproducts at various facilities around the country. Please direct any future correspondence on this issue to me.

Sincerely,



Matthew W. Bowden
Environmental Affairs Vice President