

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

Comments on Alabama Power's Barry Power Station Draft Report

EPA: None

State: None

Company: See letter dated October 29, 2010



October 29, 2010

VIA OVERNIGHT DELIVERY

Mr. Stephen Hoffman  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
2733 South Crystal Drive  
Fifth Floor, N-5237  
Arlington, Virginia 22202

**Re: Draft Dam Safety Inspection Report for Plant Barry**

Dear Mr. Hoffman:

On September 30, 2010, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA") provided to Alabama Power Company ("APC") a draft report regarding certain facilities for the management of coal combustion byproducts at APC's Plant Barry ("Draft Report"). The Draft Report was prepared by O'Brien & Gere Engineers, Inc., and was dated July 2010. This letter provides the comments of APC.

APC is generally satisfied with the content and conclusions of the Draft Report. The report concludes that the units inspected are in "satisfactory" condition, which is the most favorable category. We also understand the potential hazard rating to be based exclusively on the consequences of a failure of a structure, not the likelihood of such an event.

The Draft Report also includes recommendations regarding minor maintenance and inspection items. APC concurs in the recommendations, which are consistent with APC's existing and ongoing practices and procedures. APC will continue to identify maintenance items as they arise through regular inspections and address them promptly.

In addition, APC provides the following comments on various discrete issues. At the bottom of page 2, the surveys and calculations were performed by Southern Company Services, which is a corporate affiliate of APC. In section 2.2, second paragraph, APC is aware of no information that would provide a specific basis for the statement with respect to downstream drinking water supplies. On page 9, the report states that a gauge for pond elevation is read twice per month. The plant records this elevation weekly. On page 10, "Hydroservices" should read "Hydro Services." On page 11, in the last bullet for the East Dike, "feral activity" should probably read "feral hog activity."

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Thank you for this opportunity to comment. Please direct any future correspondence on this issue to me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Matthew W. Bowden". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Matthew W. Bowden  
Vice President  
Environmental Affairs