



RT ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES, INC.

Your Solution-Oriented Environmental Services Firm

DUKE ENERGY ANNOUNCES COAL ASH CLEANUP PLAN FOR NORTH CAROLINA

According to a Wall Street Journal article published on April 23rd prepared by John Kell, Duke Energy is committed to working with policymakers to implement short and long-term solutions for coal ash management in North Carolina. Paul Newton, Duke Energy's North Carolina President said that the coal ash cleanup activities may cost the utility up to \$2.5 billion dollars. Duke Energy's efforts to address coal ash come after a metal pipe running underneath a waste storage pond owned by Duke Energy burst in early February pouring as much as 39,000 tons of coal ash into the adjacent Dan River.

Duke has outlined plans to excavate and relocate ash from Company sites into a lined landfill, and will convert three remaining coal ash units to dry fly ash systems. Duke also warned investors, however, that costs could be significantly higher if Duke were forced to excavate and remove all ash from coal sites.

We at RT congratulate Duke Energy for moving forward with plans to address its sites, in appropriate order. Duke has evaluated its sites, and is addressing the most important risky coal ash sites first, something that many investor-run utilities with coal-fired power plants, have yet to do. As the national debate continues on how to manage coal ash disposal sites, some utilities, such as Duke Energy, know where their environmental responsibilities lie, and are not putting off important environmental expenditures. This will ultimately help make the company strong.

While many utilities are waiting to see what happens based on the federal coal ash rules, other utilities, such as Duke Energy, are making important decisions, with the simple basic knowledge of what sound disposal practices are, a national debate that largely ended outside the electric utility industry in the 1980s. Placing coal ash materials in wet impoundments and leaving them long term, does not provide environmental security for waste materials in most cases, so we can only hope that other investor-owned utilities, will properly assess and manage their coal ash, and not wait for future costly release incidents, which not only

cause embarrassment, but also high environmental expenditures for cleanup, as coal ash washes out of the less secure disposal locations used in the past into our nation's rivers. Gary Brown, P.E., RT's President, testified on the important Tennessee Valley Authority coal ash case, in federal court.

- Gary Brown



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