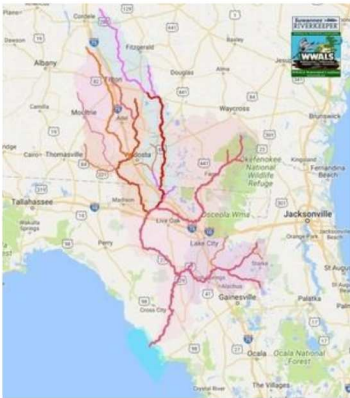
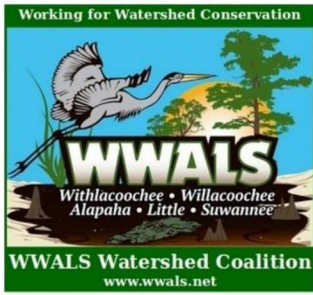


June 10, 2019



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WWALS Watershed Coalition advocates for conservation and stewardship of the Withlacoochee, Willacoochee, Alapaha, Little, and Suwannee River watersheds in south Georgia and north Florida through education, awareness, environmental monitoring, and citizen activities.



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Re: **Georgia Power Integrated Resource Plan (IRP), PSC Docket [42310](#), and August 17, 2018 natural gas explosion in Homerville, GA, Docket [42166](#)**

Commissioner Shaw,

Congratulations again on your appointment to the PSC. Since I last wrote to you about that, February 13, 2019, there have been some developments. In this letter I make some suggestions for the PSC, with rationale, and a list at the end.

PSC staff at the end of March produced a report on the August 17, 2018, explosion in Homerville, GA of natural gas from an Atlanta Gas Light (AGL) pipeline.¹

1) I urge you and the other Commissioners to implement the fines and other actions on AGL as recommended by PSC staff in PSC Docket [42166](#).

As you know, Southern Company, parent of Georgia Power, bought AGL in 2016.²

A few years ago, Georgia Power and Southern Company were leading the southeast in rapidity of solar power deployment. Unfortunately, Georgia Power's most recent Integrated Resource Plan (IRP),³ PSC Docket [42310](#), does not continue that trend.

2) I urge the PSC to require Georgia Power to buy more solar power, as the PSC has done on at least one previous occasion, in 2013, and I believe again in 2015.

In the IRP, Georgia Power asks for a large sum of money to dispose of coal ash. More appropriate would be for the company that produced that ash to pay for its disposal out of some of the profits accrued over all those years of burning coal.

3) I urge the PSC to require Georgia Power to pay for most, if not all, of the cost of disposal of coal ash, in properly lined and otherwise protected landfills, on property owned by Georgia Power, not by shipping it to local landfills.

Coal burning issues go beyond coal ash. Mercury emissions from coal combustion have been linked to atmospheric deposition of this toxic metal and its accumulation at health threatening levels in the tissue of sports fish throughout the region. There are fish consumption advisories due to mercury contamination even in areas as remote as the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge, and the Alapaha River. There is consensus that the primary source of the mercury in these fish is from coal combustion for electricity generation.

4) Perhaps the parties responsible should be asked to provide compensation for the negative impacts that mercury emissions have on recreational fishing.

If Georgia Power is in need of further funds, the best way to get them would be to stop throwing cash down the bottomless pit of Plant Vogtle. No other company and no other state is building new nuclear power units. Many other companies and states are closing them down,

¹ "Notice of Probable Violations with Proposed Civil Penalty," Staff, GA-PSC, Docket Filing #176323, Docket: 42166, <http://www.psc.state.ga.us/factsv2/Document.aspx?documentNumber=176323>

² "The Southern Company acquires AGL Resources for \$12 billion," Jones Day, July 2016, <https://www.jonesday.com/southern-company-to-acquire-agl-resources/>

³ "2019 Integrated Resource Plan," Georgia Power, 31 January 2019, Docket Filing #175473, Docket: 42310, <http://www.psc.state.ga.us/factsv2/Document.aspx?documentNumber=175473>