



N.C. Department of Environment and Natural Resources

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Public Hearing Set On Air Permit Revision For Duke Power Plant

RALEIGH -- The N.C. Division of Air Quality has scheduled a public hearing for Thursday, May 31, 2007, on an air quality permit revision for a new coal-fired boiler at the Duke Cliffside plant in Rutherford County.

Duke Energy Carolinas has applied for an air permit modification to construct and operate a new 800-megawatt boiler at its Cliffside Steam Station, 573 Duke Power Road, in Rutherford County. Duke previously had applied for a permit to build two new boilers at Cliffside, but amended its application after the state Utilities Commission approved only one additional unit at the plant.

The public hearing will be held at 6 p.m. on Thursday, May 31, 2007, at Chase High School, 1603 Chase High School Road, Forest City. Individuals may register to speak at the hearing and/or submit written comments. Due to time constraints, speakers will be limited to 3 minutes each.

Under the permit, Duke must demonstrate that it can comply with state and federal rules for controlling particulate matter, sulfur dioxide, carbon monoxide, nitrogen oxides, visible emissions, volatile organic compounds and hazardous air pollutants. The plant would use state-of-the-art air pollution control devices, including a wet scrubber, electrostatic precipitators and a selective catalytic reduction system. Other permit conditions require the facility operators to:

- Monitor air pollution control equipment.
- Conduct periodic stack testing of emissions from recovery furnaces and boilers annually.
- Operate continuous emission monitors for nitrogen oxides, sulfur dioxide and visible emissions.

The draft permit may be viewed online at http://daq.state.nc.us/cgi-bin/perm_draftrev.cgi or at the following locations: Haynes Branch Library, Henrietta; DAQ Asheville Regional Office, 2090 U.S. Highway 70, Swannanoa, phone (828) 296-4500; and the DAQ Central Office, Permits Section, Parker Lincoln Building, 2728 Capital Blvd., Raleigh, phone (919) 715-6255.

The hearing is for a Prevention of Significant Deterioration, or PSD, modification of the Cliffside facility's existing permit. The PSD process ensures that the construction and operation of new major sources will not significantly degrade air quality.

By law, the DAQ must review permits for compliance with air quality regulations. The division has no authority over zoning, land use or where a company decides to locate a facility. Local governments are responsible for regulating land use. More information about other air quality issues can be found at the DAQ Web site, www.ncair.org/

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