



## 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 second public hearing in January on a proposed air quality permit revision for the new coal-fired boiler that Duke Energy is building at its Cliffside plant in Rutherford County.

Duke Energy Carolinas has applied for an air permit modification to limit the release of hazardous air pollutants (HAPs) from its new Unit 6 at the Cliffside Steam Station, 573 Duke Power Road, in Rutherford County. Duke received an air quality permit for the new 800-megawatt boiler at Cliffside in January 2008, and that facility is now under construction.

The second public hearing will be held at 6 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 22, at Mac Gray Auditorium, Statesville Senior High School, 474 North Center Street, Statesville. Individuals may register to speak at the hearing and/or submit written comments. Participants will be allowed to speak up to three minutes and may provide written comments to the hearing officer or send them to DAQ by the date of the hearing. This meeting will be in addition to a previously scheduled hearing on the issue at 6 p.m. on Jan. 15 at Chase High School, 1603 Chase High School Road, Forest City.

The permit amendment that Duke is seeking would restrict the new unit's emissions of hazardous air pollutants to less than 10 tons per year for any HAP and less than 25 tons per year for any combination of HAPs. These restrictions would qualify the unit as a minor source for HAPs. The proposed permit revisions and hearing are a partial response to a recent court decision about the Cliffside facility, in which federal Judge Lacy Thornburg directed Duke to move forward with its permitting process for the new unit.

The proposed permit modifications and other information will be available for review online at <http://daq.state.nc.us/permits/psd/cliffside.shtml> or at the following locations: 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) 715-6253.

Mail written comments by Jan. 22 to: Don Van der Vaart, DAQ Permits Section, Re: Cliffside Permit, NC Division of Air Quality, 1641 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC, 27699-1641. E-mail comments to: [Donald.vanderVaart@ncmail.net](mailto:Donald.vanderVaart@ncmail.net).

The public hearing will only deal with the proposed changes in the HAP portion of the Cliffside permit. It will not concern other portions of the air quality permit that DAQ previously issued for the new Cliffside unit.

Under the permit that DAQ issued in January 2008, Duke must install best available air pollution controls on the new unit and shut down four older units at the Cliffside facility. The permit will result in significant reductions in total emissions of key pollutants in spite of the increased power production. The permit also requires Duke to mitigate the plant's carbon dioxide emissions even though neither state nor federal regulations currently require industries to control their emissions of greenhouse gases that contribute to climate change.

In conjunction with adding the new boiler, Duke will be retiring four older boilers (Units 1-4) without modern emissions controls at Cliffside. In addition, the utility is installing a wet scrubber on the existing Unit 5, which will keep sulfur dioxide emissions from increasing significantly even though the plant's electric generating capacity will be increasing. More information about other air quality issues can be found at the DAQ Web site, [www.ncair.org/](http://www.ncair.org/)

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