

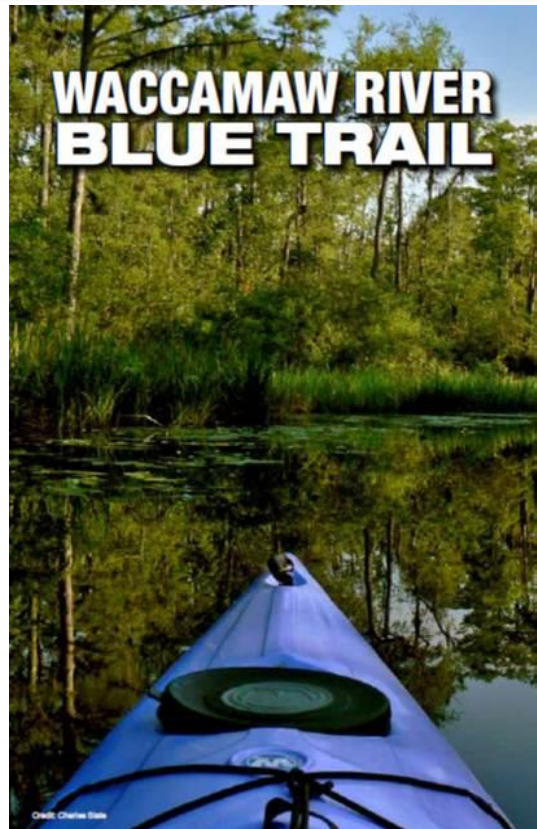


Waccamaw River Blue Trail

US Department of the Interior recognizes the Waccamaw as a National Water Trail



**National
Blueways
Initiative**



River Cleanups Waccamaw RIVERKEEPER® & Adopt-a-Landing Program



**Waccamaw
RIVERKEEPER®**

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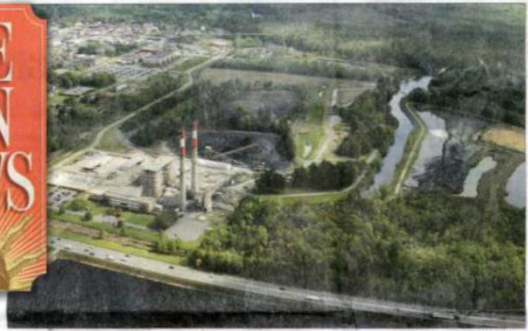


SANTEE COOPER'S GRAINGER COAL
PLANT
Conway, SC (on the Waccamaw River)





Plant's pollution stirs suit



The Santee Cooper Granger Generating Station ash ponds are on the right side of the photo. The canal in the center of the photo connects with the Waccamaw River just downstream from the Colleton Marina. The water at the bottom of the photo is Lake Santee.

Santee Cooper at odds with environmentalists

By Davis Watts
dwatts@thesunnews.com

SUMMARY A pair of inland coal ash ponds adjacent to the Waccamaw River at Santee Cooper's Granger electric generating plant have one in a dozen visitors to happen, and the state has been slow to do anything about them or the high levels of arsenic seeping from the ponds into surrounding groundwater, according to a site of environmental groups that are suing the Waccamaw Riverkeeper.

Santee Cooper spokeswoman Michelle Cox, however, said the utility does not consider the ponds a threat to the environment and the arsenic detected in groundwater has been excluded by the

Granger site and does not pose a public health hazard. Cox said the plant's permit has been issued by the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control but has not been issued by the state agency in charge of protecting the public's health and environment has known about the arsenic contamination in groundwater for more than a decade.

DHEC also allowed the Granger plant to operate for the past six years under an expired water discharge permit. State law allows industries and others to operate under expired environmental permits as long as a new application has been filed.

Santee Cooper filed to remove its permit and the expired permit has expired as of last week DHEC reviews the application. Frank Holleman, attorney for the Southern Environmental Law Center, said DHEC's actions "are a disservice to the public and the environment."

He said the utility has not provided any specific guidance or a schedule to complete this.

DHEC's Powder, in the written statement, said Santee Cooper conducted a fish tissue study in 2011 to determine

whether arsenic had damaged fish in the Waccamaw River.

"There was no arsenic detected in any of the fish sampled," Powder said. However, sediment samples in the river or have led DHEC to issue advisories for many types of fish found in the Waccamaw River, with the agency recommending consumption of no more than eight ounces per week.

"Groundwater and surface water monitoring are continuing at the site while remedial alternatives are being evaluated to address both the groundwater contamination and the source of the arsenic."

Ellis said DHEC "has not gone far enough in terms of requiring some type of corrective action" at the Granger facility.

"There's more that needs to be done to remediate the contamination and threat to the river," she said.

Cox, Santee Cooper's spokeswoman, said the utility is fulfilling all of DHEC's requirements and a final plan to address the coal ash ponds and groundwater contamination is in the works.

"The ultimate plan will be the subject of technical analysis," she said, adding that since Granger is listed, the property "is in a holding pattern until we decide."

"It's way too early to say what we're going to do," she said.

Cox said testing since the 1990s has shown the contamination has not left the Granger property, there are no drinking water wells in the vicinity and the arsenic does not represent a health danger.

"Everything is a health danger."

for COAL | Page 16A

Environmentalists say the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control has been slow to sue Santee Cooper to clean up the pollution even though the state agency is in charge of protecting the public's health and environment has known about the arsenic contamination in groundwater for more than a decade.

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Business
SANTEE COOPER

Santee Cooper coal plant discharges spark federal lawsuit

Published: April 29, 2013 Updated: 19 hours ago

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By SAMMY FRETWELL — sfretwell@thestate.com

An environmental group made good Monday on its threat to sue Santee Cooper for years of arsenic contamination at the state-owned utility's coal-fired power plant west of Myrtle Beach.

In a federal lawsuit, the Waccamaw Riverkeeper says Santee Cooper and state environmental regulators knew for more than a decade that arsenic was seeping from the Granger power plant and into groundwater that flows to the river.

But the suit says the Department of Health and Environmental Control and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency have failed to enforce pollution laws.



Santee Cooper's Granger Generating Station. Santee Cooper — Provided

The lawsuit, filed by the Southern Environmental Law Center, asks a federal court to require that Santee Cooper remove toxic coal ash from waste ponds at the 47-year-old Granger power plant and clean up contaminated groundwater to protect the Waccamaw River in the future.

"We are hoping this federal proceeding will help convince Santee Cooper to remove the ash and help convince DHEC to require that it be removed," said Frank Holleman, a Greenville attorney who is with the law center. "DHEC has not taken any action, so we are seeking to enforce the law."

June 2012

SELC files suit against Santee Cooper on behalf of Waccamaw RIVERKEEPER®, South Carolina Coastal Conservation League and Southern Alliance for Clean Energy for violations of **SC Pollution Control Act**

September 2012

SELC files **mandamus action** on behalf of Waccamaw RIVERKEEPER® and Southern Alliance for Clean Energy to force SCDHEC to issue a new water pollution elimination (NPDES) permit for Grainger **Settled June 2013 – draft NPDES permit issued in August 2013**

April 2013

SELC files Clean Water Act suit against Santee Cooper on behalf of Waccamaw RIVERKEEPER®

April 2013

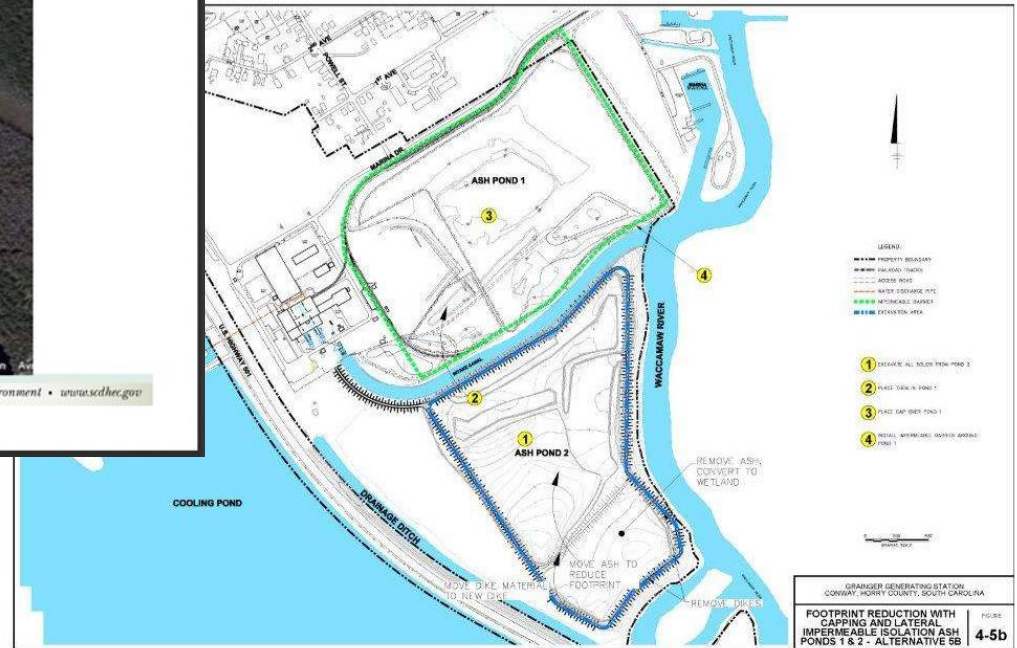
Santee Cooper's Proposed Closure Plan released and public hearing held by SCDHEC

October 2013

15th – Public Hearing in Conway
21st – Public comments due to DHEC



Promoting and protecting the health of the public and the environment • www.scdhec.gov



Proposed Closure Plan from Santee Cooper released April 2013:

- Dewater/move ash from pond 2 to pond 1
- Vertical groundwater movement controlled by existing soil structure
- Horizontal groundwater movement controlled by new barrier around perimeter (“vault”)
- Cap on top to keep more water out of “cell”

Conway < Local News < News

NEXT STORY > Another lawsuit filed over pollution at Conway's Grainger plant

Conway City Council unanimously opposes Santee Cooper's plan to leave coal ash at Grainger

Published: May 6, 2013 Updated 12 hours ago

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By David Wren — dwren@thesunnews.com

CONWAY — The Conway City Council on Monday unanimously adopted a resolution opposing any plan by state-owned utility Santee Cooper to leave coal ash and its residual pollution — including groundwater contaminated with arsenic — at the site of the idled Grainger electric plant adjacent to the Waccamaw River here.

"This is not an attack on Santee Cooper, but this is toxic waste that needs to be removed from our back yard," said City Councilman Tom Anderson, who urged other council members and the public to call the utility's board of directors to voice opposition to any proposal that would leave the coal ash in place. "We don't need this here."

Santee Cooper, which owns the Grainger plant, has proposed combining two coal ash ponds on the property into one pond and then encasing the pollution within a cement-fortified vault topped with a synthetic cap. The utility says leaving the coal ash in place will cost about \$40 million — nearly half the estimated \$78 million it would cost to haul the coal ash to an off-site, lined landfill.

Widespread opposition to Santee Cooper's proposed plan to leave coal ash in place

MyrtleBeachOnline.com

Next Story >

Surfside Beach doesn't muzzle barking at dog park

Public calls for coal ash to be hauled away from Conway's Grainger plant

Published: April 23, 2013 Updated 6 hours ago



By Brad Dickerson — bdickerson@thesunnews.com

CONWAY — There was an overriding theme among community members who spoke Tuesday night at a meeting to discuss a proposed plan to enclose the coal ash ponds at the now-closed Grainger electric plant:

Haul the stuff away instead.

They were not convinced by Santee Cooper, which wants to permanently encase the coal ash ponds in a cement-fortified vault capped with a synthetic liner that is designed to prevent contaminants, including arsenic, from seeping into nearby groundwater.

More than 70 people turned out for the nearly two-hour public comment meeting.



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