

INTRODUCTION

PERMIT APPLICATION, CLOSURE OF ASH POND E PLANT BRANCH, GEORGIA POWER COMPANY

On behalf of Georgia Power Company (GPC), Geosyntec Consultants, Inc. (Geosyntec) is pleased to submit the enclosed Coal Combustion Residuals (CCR) permit application package for the closure of a CCR unit (classified under State definition as NPDES-CCR Surface Impoundment) at the Plant Branch site (the Site) proposed to be closed through CCR removal (closure-by-removal). This permit application package has been developed in compliance with the Georgia Rules for Solid Waste Management, Chapter 391-3-4-.10(9), Coal Combustion Residuals – Permits. The purpose of this section is to introduce the Site, describe the closure strategy, and identify the supporting documents enclosed with this permit application package.

Site Background and Ash Pond Description

Plant Branch is located on approximately 3,200 acres of land, off State Route 24 (US 441), on the northern shore of Lake Sinclair near Milledgeville and Eatonton, Putnam County, Georgia. The site formerly operated as a coal-fired power plant that commenced power generation in 1965, ceased generating electricity prior to April 2015, and was decommissioned in 2019. Over the course of power generation at the facility, five ash ponds, identified as Ash Ponds A, B, C, D, and E, were utilized for storage of CCR. Ash Pond A, the first ash pond constructed at the Site, was taken out of service in the late 1960s and has undergone closure by removal. Ash Ponds B, C, D, and E are currently not active and will be closed by removal also, more specifically, by relocation of the stored CCR to a new, permitted, , on-site CCR landfill.

Ash Pond E

Construction of Ash Pond E was completed in 1982 with CCR placement commencing in 1983. Ash Pond E currently has a surface area of approximately 348 acres and contains approximately 10,564,000 cubic yards of CCR. The ash pond is mostly wet, with the impoundment extending into four “finger” areas along the east side of the ash pond, referred to as Fingers 1 through 4 from north to south. Areas of exposed ash are observed south of Finger 1, in the northern portion of Finger 2, and in Finger 4. The ash pond includes an earthen dike retaining the CCR and water that is regulated as a Category I Dam under the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (GA EPD) Safe Dams Program; AP-E is regulated as a High Hazard CCR unit under the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (GA. EPD) Solid Waste Program.

Closure Strategy

In November 2016, the Georgia Environmental Protection (GA EPD) adopted amendments to the State’s Rules for Solid Waste Management. These amendments require all CCR units in Georgia to obtain a state

permit, including inactive units at electric utilities. Ash Ponds B, C, D and E at Plant Branch are to be closed in accordance with the State CCR Rule (GA EPD 391-3-4-.10).

As noted above, Plant Branch has been retired and Ash Pond A was closed in April 2016 by the removal and relocation of its stored CCR to Ash Pond E. Therefore, Ash Pond A is not subject to the State CCR Rule as the closure was completed prior to the effective date of the rule (i.e., November 22, 2016). On January 26, 2018, GPC submitted a report to the GA EPD titled “*Ash Pond A – Certification of Ash Removal, Harllee Branch Power Plant, Milledgeville, Georgia*” to provide documentation regarding the removal of CCR in Ash Pond A.

Plant Branch ceased producing electricity prior to April 2015 (i.e., the effective date of the Federal CCR Rule administered by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) (USEPA 40 CFR §257) was October 19, 2015). Therefore, Ash Ponds B, C, D, and E are not subject to the initial Federal CCR Rule. However, these CCR units are subject to the Federal CCR Legacy Rule, promulgated on November 8, 2024. Ash Ponds B, C, D, and E are considered “NPDES-CCR Surface Impoundments” by the State CCR Rule, which is defined as “a CCR surface impoundment that no longer receives CCR on or after October 19, 2015 which still contains both CCR and liquids and is located at an electric utility or independent power producer that has ceased producing electricity prior to October 19, 2015.” In order to comply with the State CCR Rule, GPC intends to close Ash Ponds B, C, D, and E by removal of the stored CCR and placement of this CCR into a new onsite CCR landfill and/or selling for beneficial reuse by others. The full volume of CCR will be excavated to its bottom in phases as defined by the visual interface between CCR and underlying native soils. After reaching the CCR/native soil interface, a minimum six inches of additional soil will also be removed. Once excavation is complete, the ash pond earthen containment dams will be lowered, breached, or removed, and the resulting soil materials will be utilized as fill material for restoration grading within the ash pond footprint to promote positive drainage patterns.

These closure activities are submitted for permitting as two independent packages: (i) the permit application for closure of Ash Ponds B, C, and D is being submitted as one package as a CCR combined unit; and (ii) the permit application for closure of Ash Pond E is being submitted as a separate package as it is located apart from Ash Ponds B, C, and D. *This submittal presents the Ash Pond E permit application package only.* The Ash Ponds B, C, and D permit application package is being presented under separate cover. A third package was submitted under a separate cover for the new on-site CCR landfill (i.e., Landfill Site Acceptability Study and Permit Application), and the CCR Handling Permit 117-008D(CCR) for the landfill was issued on January 25, 2023.

Groundwater Monitoring System

A Groundwater Monitoring Plan that describes the groundwater monitoring program for Ash Pond E, including sampling and analysis and well installation, has been prepared for the Site to meet the requirements of 391-3-4-.10(6), in accordance with 391-3-4-.10(9)(c)7(vi). GPC has installed a groundwater monitoring system within the uppermost aquifer underlying Ash Pond E. This groundwater monitoring system consists of a comprehensive network of monitoring wells and piezometers located around the perimeter of the ash pond. Since August 2016, independent groundwater samples from each monitoring network well have been collected and analyzed for 40 CFR §257, Subpart D, Appendix III and Appendix IV parameters.. In December of 2022 Georgia Power completed an Assessment of Corrective Measures (ACM) evaluating isolated impacts to groundwater. As of February 2025, Georgia Power is evaluating corrective actions and plans to submit a Draft Remedy Selection Report imminently. Details on background sampling, ACM, and semiannual groundwater reporting can be found at the Georgia Power Company Website under Environmental Compliance.

Following CCR removal from Ash Pond E, GPC proposes to conduct post-CCR-removal groundwater monitoring for five (5) years to verify the completion of closure-by-removal for the ash pond by demonstrating that the groundwater monitoring concentrations do not exceed the groundwater protection standards established pursuant to 40 CFR 257.95(h) for constituents listed in Appendix IV.

Closure Plan

Consistent with “closure through removal” for a NPDES – CCR Surface Impoundment, under State CCR Rule 391-3-4-.10(9)(c)7(vii), a Closure Plan narrative was prepared and is included in this permit application. The enclosed Closure Plan describes the CCR unit closure-by-removal activities, including wood waste management, dewatering, stormwater and wastewater management, and dust control. Design drawings depicting existing conditions, interim conditions (post-CCR removal), and final conditions (post-dam breach) are included in support of the permit application.

CCR Permitting Requirements

GPC has prepared this permit application for closure-by-removal of Ash Pond E to address State CCR Rule criteria specified for NPDES-CCR Surface Impoundments as required in State CCR Rule 391-3-4-.10(9)(b) and 391-3-4-.10(9)(c)7 as follows.

General CCR Unit Permit Application Requirements

- 391-3-4-.10(9)(b)1. - A completed form designated by EPD.

The completed form is included in Exhibit 2 of Part A of the Permit Application.

- *391-3-4-.10(9)(b)2. - Written verification that the site conforms to all local zoning or land use ordinances.*
Zoning Confirmation is included in Exhibit 4 of Part A of the Permit Application.
- *391-3-4-.10(9)(b)3. - Property boundary survey and legal description.*
The property boundary survey and legal description is included in Sheets 3 and 4 of the Permit Drawings included in Exhibit 8 of Part A of this Permit Application.
- *391-3-4-.10(9)(b)4. - Financial assurance mechanism meeting the criteria in Rule 391-3-4-.13.*
For Ash Pond E, financial assurance is not required because for NPDES-CCR Surface Impoundments, closure through removal of CCR is not subject to the financial assurance requirements per 391-3-4.10(9)(c)7(vii).
- *391-3-4-.10(9)(b)5. - A qualified professional engineer's certification that all application requirements have been met.*
The professional engineer's certification is included in Exhibit 3 of Part A of this Permit Application.

NPDES-CCR Surface Impoundment Permit Application Requirements

- *391-3-4-.10(9)(c)7(i) - Technical report of geological and hydrogeological units within the disposal site.*
GPC is closing Ash Pond E by "closure through removal" under State CCR Rule 391-3-4-.10(9)(c)7(vii), which only requires that a closure narrative be provided. However, GPC prepared a **Hydrogeologic Assessment** Report and it is included in Exhibit 1 of Part B of this Permit Application.
- *391-3-4-.10(9)(c)7(ii) - Potentiometric surface map of the water table.*
A potentiometric surface map of the water table is presented in Figure A2 of the Groundwater Monitoring Plan included in Exhibit 6 of Part A of this Permit Application.
- *391-3-4-.10(9)(c)7(iii) - Siting report which includes identification of wetlands, floodplains, and seismic impact zones.*
A Siting Report is not required because GPC is closing Ash Pond E by "closure through removal" under State CCR Rule 391-3-4-.10(9)(c)7(vii), which only requires that a closure narrative be provided.
- *391-3-4-.10(9)(c)7(iv) - Closure plan that includes at a minimum:*
 - *391-3-4-.10(9)(c)7(iv)(i) - Narrative describing how the CCR unit will be closed including the elimination of free liquids and stabilization of remaining waste or by closure through removal of CCR.*

A Closure Plan is included in Exhibit 7 of Part A of this Permit Application.

- 391-3-4-.10(9)(c)7(iv)(ii) - *Identification of any pipes, utilities, or other penetrations through or beneath the impoundment. The inspection frequency and method of evaluation should be provided.*

A pipe penetration report is not required for Ash Pond E because GPC is closing Ash Pond E by “closure through removal” under State CCR Rule 391-3-4-.10(9)(c)7(vii), which only requires that closure narrative be provided.

- 391-3-4-.10(9)(c)7(iv)(iii) - *Final cover analysis.*

A final cover analysis is not required for Ash Pond E because GPC is closing Ash Pond E by “closure through removal” under State CCR Rule 391-3-4-.10(9)(c)7(vii), which only requires that a closure narrative be provided.

- 391-3-4-.10(9)(c)7(v) - *Stability analysis that at a minimum includes the following:*

- 391-3-4-.10(9)(c)7(v)(i) - *On-site or local soil conditions that may result in significant differential settling.*
- 391-3-4-.10(9)(c)7(v)(ii) - *On-site or local geologic or geomorphologic features.*
- 391-3-4-.10(9)(c)7(v)(iii) - *On-site or local human-made features or events, both surface and subsurface.*

A stability analysis is not required for Ash Pond E because GPC is closing Ash Pond E by “closure through removal” under State CCR Rule 391-3-4-.10(9)(c)7(vii), which only requires that a closure narrative be provided.

- 391-3-4-.10(9)(c)7(vi) - *Groundwater monitoring plan in accordance with Rule 391-3-4-.10(6).*
In accordance with State CCR Rule 391-3-4-.10(6), GPC prepared a Groundwater Monitoring Plan (included in Exhibit 6 of Part A of this Permit Application) and installed a groundwater monitoring system within the uppermost aquifer at Ash Pond E. This groundwater monitoring system is located around the perimeter of Ash Pond E. Since August 2016, independent groundwater samples from each monitoring network groundwater well have been collected and analyzed for 40 CFR 257, Subpart D, Appendix III and Appendix IV test parameters to establish a background statistical dataset. In December of 2022 Georgia Power completed an Assessment of Corrective Measures (ACM) evaluating isolated impacts to groundwater. As of February 2025, Georgia Power is evaluating corrective actions and plans to submit a Draft Remedy Selection Report in Q1 2025.

- 391-3-4-.10(9)(c)7(vii) - *Closure through removal of CCR is subject only to (iv)(I) above and is not subject to the financial assurance requirements of Rule 391-3-4-.13.*

For Ash Pond E, financial assurance is not required because for NPDES-CCR Surface Impoundments, closure through removal of CCR is not subject to financial assurance requirements per State CCR Rule 391-3-4-.10(9)(c)7(vii).

EXHIBIT 2. APPLICATION FORM (GEORGIA EPD)

Send completed application to:

Environmental Protection Division, Solid Waste Management Program
4244 International Parkway, Suite 104
Atlanta, GA 30354-3902

County: _____

Facility Name: _____

CCR Unit - Application for Solid Waste Handling Permit

(Please type or print)

I. APPLICANT INFORMATIONOwner's Name or Registered Corporation Name: **Georgia Power Company – Plant Branch**Facility Address: **1100 Milledgeville Road**Phone: **404-506-6505**City: **Milledgeville**State: **GA**ZIP Code: **31061**Authorized Official: **Aaron D. Mitchell**Title: **General Manager – Environmental Affairs**Mailing Address: **241 Ralph McGill Blvd. NE, BIN 10221**Phone: **404-506-6505**City: **Atlanta**State: **GA**ZIP Code: **30308**Email Address: **GPCENV@SOUTHERNCO.COM**Facility CCR Website(s): **WWW.GEORGIAPOWER.COM****II. PROPERTY DETAILS:** Complete below **and attach** a street or highway map indicating the site/facility location. Application must be accompanied by written zoning confirmation.County: **Putnam County**City: **Milledgeville**Co-ordinates (in decimal degrees, near facility center): **N33.204497, W83.329289**Property for Processing/Disposal is: ☒ Owned ☐ Leased (please complete owner details below)

Property Owner (if leased):

Address:

Phone:

City:

State:

Zip:

III. APPLICATION TYPE:☒ New Permit☐ Major Modification to Existing Permit☐ Transfer of Permit☐ Other**IV. CCR UNITS:** List all CCR units covered under this application**Ash Pond E**

V. OWNERS: List all owners of the facility (defined as holding a 5% or greater share). All owners listed below must complete the Supplemental Form for O.C.G.A. 12-8-23.1(a)(3)(B)

Georgia Power Company

VI. SIGNATURE

Authorized Official's Signature:

Ar S. Mitchell

Date:

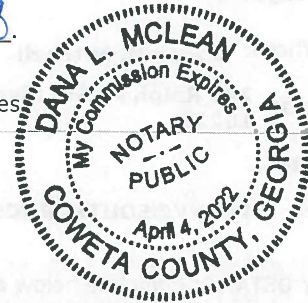
11/13/18

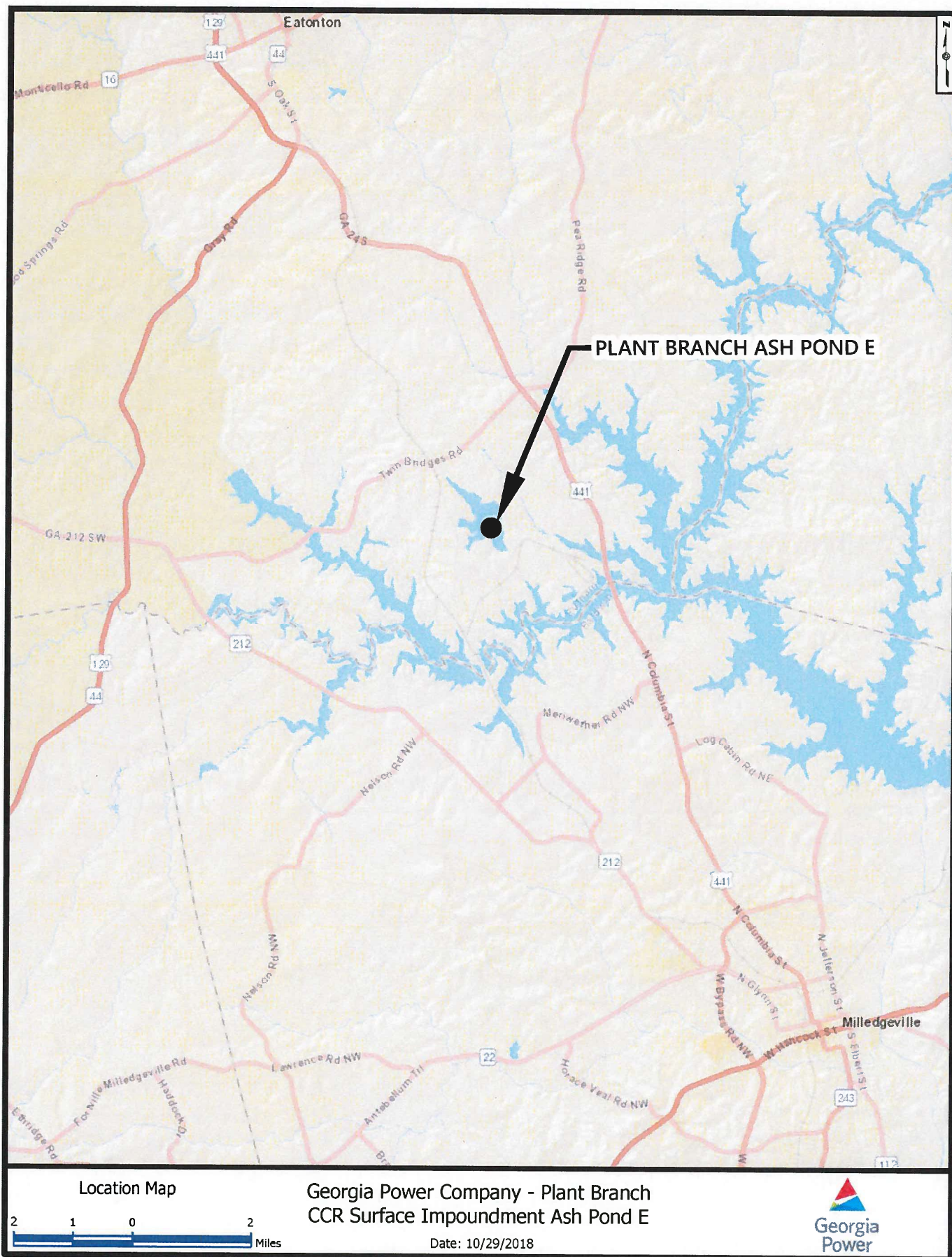
Sworn to and subscribed before me this 18 day of November, 2018.

Notary Public:

Dana L. McLean

My commission expires





Send with completed application to:

Environmental Protection Division, Solid Waste Management Program
 4244 International Parkway, Suite 104
 Atlanta, GA 30354-3902

County: _____

Facility: _____

Solid Waste Handling Permit Supplemental Form for O.C.G.A. 12-8-23.1(a)(3)(B)

(Please type or print)

I. INFORMATION: This form must be completed by each owner, or an authorized official of a corporation, holding a 5% or greater ownership share. This form must be notarized.

Name of Facility Applying for Solid Waste Handling Permit: **Georgia Power Company – Plant Branch**

Owner's Name or Registered Corporation Name: **Georgia Power Company**

Authorized Official: **Aaron D. Mitchell**

Title: **General Manager – Environmental Affairs**

Mailing Address: **241 Ralph McGill Boulevard, BIN 10221**

Phone: **(404) 506 - 6505**

City: **Atlanta**

State: **GA**

ZIP Code: **30308**

Email Address: **GPCENV@SOUTHERNCO.COM**

A.	Yes	No
(1) Has the applicant, or if the applicant is a corporation, partnership, or association, has any officer, director, manager, or shareholder of five percent or more of stock financial interest in the corporation, partnership, or association intentionally misrepresented or concealed any material fact in the application submitted to the director?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
(2) Has the applicant, or if the applicant is a corporation, partnership, or association, has any officer, director, manager, or shareholder of five percent or more of stock financial interest in the corporation, partnership, or association obtained or attempted to obtain the permit by misrepresentation or concealment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
(3) Has the applicant, or if the applicant is a corporation, partnership, or association, has any officer, director, manager, or shareholder of five percent or more of stock financial interest in the corporation, partnership, or association been convicted by final judgment, and all appeals have been exhausted, in the State of Georgia or any federal court of any felony involving moral turpitude within three years immediately preceding the application for a permit?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
(4) Has the applicant, or if the applicant is a corporation, partnership, or association, has any officer, director, manager, or shareholder of five percent or more of stock financial interest in the corporation, partnership, or association been convicted of any violations of any environmental laws punishable as a felony in any state or federal court within five years preceding the application for a permit?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
(5) Has the applicant, or if the applicant is a corporation, partnership, or association, has any officer, director, manager, or shareholder of five percent or more of stock financial interest in the corporation, partnership, or association knowingly, willfully, and consistently violated the prohibitions specified in Code Section 12-8-30.7?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
(6) Has the applicant, or if the applicant is a corporation, partnership, or association, has any officer, director, manager, or shareholder of five percent or more of stock financial interest in the corporation, partnership, or association been adjudicated in contempt of any court order enforcing any federal environmental laws or any environmental laws of the State of Georgia within five years preceding the application for a permit?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

B. On a separate sheet, please provide detailed explanations for each question above answered "yes."

Signature: *Aaron D. Mitchell*

Date: *11/13/18*

Sworn to and subscribed before me this *13* day of *November*, 20*18*

Notary Public:

Dana L. McLean

My commission expires:

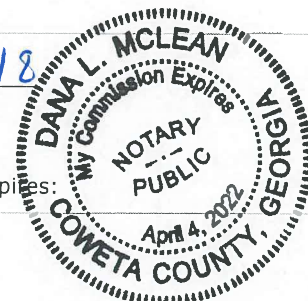


EXHIBIT 3. PROFESSIONAL ENGINEER CERTIFICATION

November 9, 2018

Mr. Richard Dunn
Director
Georgia Environmental Protection Division
2 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive
Suite 1456
Atlanta, GA 30334-9000

**Re: Professional Engineer Certification
Rule 391-3-4.10-(9)(b)5**

Dear Mr. Dunn:

Geosyntec Consultants, Inc. (Geosyntec) is an engineering firm employing professional engineers in good standing in accordance with State statutes, and the firm has experience in the design and construction of solid waste disposal facilities. Mehmet Iscimen, P.E., with Geosyntec, is the Engineer of Record for this permit application. He is registered in the State of Georgia and has more than 16 years of experience in Engineering.

"I certify under penalty of law that this document and all attachments were prepared under my direction or supervision in accordance with a system designed to assure that qualified personnel properly gather and evaluate the information submitted. Based on my inquiry of the person or persons who manage the system or those persons directly responsible for gathering the information, the information submitted is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, true, accurate, and complete. I do hereby certify that the application requirements of the Georgia Environmental Protection Division Solid Waste Rule 391-3-4.10 for Management of Coal Combustion Residuals have been met."



ATTEST:

Geosyntec Consultants, Inc.

Engineering Firm

Mehmet Iscimen, P.E.

Name of Professional Engineer

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "M. Iscimen", written over a horizontal line.

Signature

11/14/2018

Date

EXHIBIT 4. LOCAL ZONING OR LAND USE CONFIRMATION

PUTNAM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



DISTRICT ONE:
KELVIN IRVIN

DISTRICT TWO:
DANIEL W. BROWN

CHAIRMAN:
DR. STEPHEN HERSEY

DISTRICT THREE:
ALAN FOSTER

DISTRICT FOUR:
TREVOR J. ADDISON

September 18, 2018

Mr. Jeffrey W. Cown
Branch Chief
Georgia Environmental Protection Division
2 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive, SE
Suite 1054, East Floyd Tower
Atlanta, GA 30334-9000

RE: Georgia Power – Plant Branch

Permit Application – CCR Surface Impoundments

Dear Mr. Cown:

The Georgia Power Plant Branch – CCR Surface Impoundments (AP-B, AP-C, AP-D, and AP-E) located at 1100 Milledgeville Road, Milledgeville, Georgia comply with local zoning and land use ordinances.

Sincerely,

Stephen J. Hersey
Chairman
Putnam County