



*Weatherspoon Steam Station
Coal Ash Impoundment Closure Plan
Beneficiation Facility*

Public Hearing
February 13, 2020



Weatherspoon Steam Station

- Located in Robeson County
- Owned by Duke Energy Progress
- Three-unit coal-fired plant
 - Began operation in 1949
 - Retired 2012
 - Demolished in 2017
- One coal ash impoundment
 - 58 acres
 - Currently contains 1.6 million tons of ash





UPPER BASIN
(POND 1)

1979 ASH BASIN
(ROBES - 009)

MIDDLE BASIN
(POND 2)

LOWER BASIN
(POND 3)

CLARIFIER BASIN
(POND 4)

WHEEL WASH

Coal Ash Management Act – House Bill 630 – July 2016

- Ash Beneficiation
 - By January 1, 2017 – Duke had to identify two facilities to beneficially reuse ash for cement production
 - By July 1, 2017 – Duke had to identify a third facility for beneficial reuse
 - Process at least 300,000 tons annually
 - Close basins by December 31, 2029
- Deemed HF Lee, Cape Fear and Weatherspoon intermediate-risk
- December 31, 2019 – Duke submitted Closure Plans for closure by excavation for Buck, Cape Fear, HF Lee and Weatherspoon
- December 31, 2019 – Duke, DEQ and several community environmental groups entered into a Settlement Agreement
- January 31, 2020 – Consent Order incorporating the terms of the Settlement Agreement filed with the Wake County Superior Court
- February 5, 2020 – Consent Order entered by Judge Paul Ridgeway



Closure by Excavation Beneficially Reuse Ash

- One basin will be excavated – 1,676,000 tons of ash
- Excavated ash will be beneficially reused in cement plants
 - Ash is being trucked to plants in Holly Hill and Harleyville, South Carolina
 - 230,000 tons of ash are processed each year
 - On target to meet full excavation deadline by April 4, 2028

Estimated Project Schedule

- Coal ash excavation – ongoing
- Complete coal ash excavation – 1st Quarter of 2028
- Site Restoration – 1st Quarter of 2029





Cement Plant in Holly Hill

Picture: <https://www.reliableplant.com/Read/14663/holcim-us>





Cement Plant in Harleyville

Picture: https://www.postandcourier.com/harleyville-cement-plant-part-of-million-sale/article_2c40a20c-8396-51ea-b973-3c3ac5a6cf98.html



Submit comments by mail to:

Louise Hughes
N.C. Department of Environmental Quality
1601 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-1601

Submit comments by email to:

weatherspooncomments@ncdenr.gov - Include Closure Plan in the subject

The Closure Plan may be found at:

<https://deq.nc.gov/news/key-issues/coal-ash-excavation/2020-coal-ash-closure-plans-buck-cape-fear-hf-lee-and#h.f.-lee-coal-ash-closure-plan>

