



ROY COOPER

*Governor*

WILLIAM G. ROSS, JR.

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S. JAY ZIMMERMAN

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January 15, 2017

Mr. Harry Sideris, Senior Vice President  
Environmental, Health and Safety  
Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC  
Mail Code EC13K  
P.O. Box 1006  
Charlotte, North Carolina 28201-1006

Subject: Draft NPDES Permit  
Permit NC0024406  
Belews Creek Steam Station  
Stokes County  
Facility Class I

Dear Mr. Sideris:

Enclosed with this letter is a copy of the draft permit for your facility. Please review the draft very carefully to ensure thorough understanding of the conditions and requirements it contains. The permit is being re-noticed to incorporate Outfall 005 that was omitted from the renewal application.

**The draft permit contains the following significant changes from your current permit:**

- The following monitoring parameters were eliminated (Internal Outfall 002) to be consistent with the latest update to 40 CFR 423: Chlorides and TSS.
- The Technology Based Effluent Limits for Total Arsenic, Total Mercury, Total Selenium, and Nitrate/nitrite as N were added to the permit (Internal Outfall 002) based on the requirements in 40 CFR 423.
- The Decanting Special Conditions were added to Outfall 003, please see A. (3.).
- Monitoring frequency for all parameters that were previously monitored Quarterly were reduced to Monthly (Outfall 003 – normal operations/decanting), please see A. (3.).
- Instream Waste Concentration for Outfall 003 (normal operations/decanting) was increased to 26.5% from 19% based on the latest flow information.
- The compliance dates for fly ash transport water (May 1, 2017) and bottom ash transport water (May 31, 2021) were added to Outfall 003 in accordance with 40 CFR 423.
- The compliance date of November 1, 2019 for Technology Based Effluent Limits was added to Internal Outfall 002 in accordance with 40 CFR 423.
- The daily maximum limit and monthly average limit for Sulfates (Outfall 003 – normal operations/decanting) were removed from the permit based on the results of Reasonable Potential Analysis.
- The Water Quality Based Effluent Limits for Total Copper, Total Lead, and Total Thallium were added to the permit based on the results of Reasonable Potential Analysis (Outfall 003 – normal operations/decanting).
- A separate effluent page for the dewatering of the ash pond (Outfall 003) was added to the permit. Please see Condition A. (4.).
- A separate effluent page for the new Retention Basin (Outfall 003A) was added to the permit. Please see Condition A. (5.).
- The “Clean Water Act Section 316(b)” Special Condition was updated. Please see Special Condition A. (19.).

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- The limits for BOD and Fecal Coliforms were added to Outfall 003 to address the EPA comment.
- The limits for aluminum were added to Outfall 003 based on the review of the data.
- The attachment 1 entitled “Groundwater Monitoring Plan” was added to the permit.
- The Instream Monitoring Special Condition was added to the permit to monitor the impact of the facility on the receiving stream. Please see Special Condition A. (26.).
- The Seep Outfalls 106, 107, 108, 109, 114, 102, and 115 (Please see A. (6.) through A. (12.)) and Discharge from Seepage Special Condition (Please see A. (27.)) were added to the permit.
- The Ash Pond Closure Special Condition was added to the permit to facilitate the decommissioning of the ash ponds. Please see Special Condition A. (28.).
- Federal regulations require electronic submittal of all discharge monitoring reports (DMRs) and program reports. The final NPDES Electronic Reporting Rule was adopted and became effective on December 21, 2015. The requirement to begin reporting discharge monitoring data electronically using the NC DWR’s Electronic Discharge Monitoring Report (eDMR) internet application has been added to your final NPDES permit. [See Special Condition A. (29.)]  
For information on eDMR, registering for eDMR and obtaining an eDMR user account, please visit the following web page: <http://deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/water-resources/edmr>.  
For more information on EPA’s final NPDES Electronic Reporting Rule, please visit the following web site:  
<http://www2.epa.gov/compliance/final-national-pollutant-discharge-elimination-system-mpdes-electronic-reporting-rule>.
- The turbidity limit was added to the permit (Outfall 003) to meet the state turbidity standard per 15A NCAC 2B .0211(3) (k).
- The Plan for Identification of New Discharges was added to the permit, please see Attachment 2.
- Thermal Variance special condition was updated (Please see A. (30.)).
- A special condition entitled FGD treatment was added to the permit to meet EPA requirements (Please see A. (31.)).
- A new outfall was added to the permit (Outfall 005). This is a former stormwater outfall SW002, it consists of once through non-contact chiller water and stormwater.

**Please provide any comments you have regarding the draft permit to this office by February 20, 2017.** At this time, the Division is also publishing a notice in the newspapers of general circulation in Stokes County, inviting public comment on the draft permit. Following the 30-day comment period, we will review all pertinent comments received and take appropriate action on the permit renewal.

If you have any questions about the NPDES permit process, please contact me at the following e-mail address: [sergei.chernikov@ncdenr.gov](mailto:sergei.chernikov@ncdenr.gov), or telephone number: 919-807-6386.

Sincerely,

Sergei Chernikov, Ph.D.  
Environmental Engineer II  
Complex NPDES Permitting Unit

cc: Central Files  
NPDES Files  
EPA Region IV  
Winston-Salem Regional Office / Water Quality (e-copy) and PWS (e-copy)  
WSS/Aquatic Toxicology Unit (e-copy)