

NOTICE OF THE OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT
Environmental Protection Division
Georgia Department of Natural Resources

State of Georgia
County of MURRAY

To All Interested Persons and Parties

Duke Energy Murray, L.L.C was issued PSD Air Quality Permit No. 4911-213-0034-P-01-0 to construct and operate two combined-cycle power blocks at a site called the Murray Energy Facility on February 13, 2001. The Murray Energy Facility is located at 925 Loopers Road in Murray County, Georgia, near Dalton, Georgia. Each combined-cycle power block includes two combustion turbines, two supplementary-fired heat recovery steam generators, one steam turbine, and one emergency diesel fired generator. Since the time of the original application, Duke has determined that the originally planned auxiliary boiler capacity is inadequate. Duke submitted an updated permit application for this site on October 16, 2001 and this application is assigned Application No. 13365.

Application No. 13365 is a request for the following revision to the original plant configuration: (1) Revise Condition 2.13 by raising the allowable annual hours of operation from 2,500 to 6,000 for the permitted auxiliary boiler; and (2) authorize the construction and operation of a second auxiliary boiler rated at approximately 31.4 MMBtu/hr fired on natural gas and operated no more than 6,000 hours per year. Application No. 13365 is also a request to lower the nitrogen oxides, carbon monoxide, volatile organic compounds, and particulate matter BACT emission rates for each combined combustion turbine and duct burner stack.

Nitrogen oxide (NO_x) emissions will be minimized from the existing and new boiler through the use of dry low-NO_x burners and flue gas recirculation. EPD has considered air toxics control in its analyses of BACT and air quality.

You are hereby notified of the opportunity for written public comments concerning Application No. 13365 and the EPD's Preliminary Determination concerning said application. The Preliminary Determination is a summary of the technical review of the application and contains a copy of the Company's application, other supporting information submitted by the applicant, and the draft Air Quality Permit.

EPD has concluded that the application for the revised facility configuration should be approved and that a permit amendment should be granted. This conclusion is based upon evidence that the proposed project, when completed, will comply with the Division's Rules for Air Quality Control, Chapter 391-3-1; that the emissions from the revised facility configuration will not cause or contribute to a violation of any applicable National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) or Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD) increment, and will comply with the PSD Regulations, 40 CFR 52.21, including use of Best Available Control Technology (BACT) for regulated pollutants.

The PSD regulations allow specific maximum incremental increases in ambient concentrations of particulate matter (PM₁₀), sulfur dioxide (SO₂) and nitrogen oxides (NO_x). EPD has determined that, based on the revised facility configuration, that the maximum predicted impacts of particulate matter, nitrogen oxides, and sulfur dioxide due to the proposed project are all below the Class II significant impact levels specified in the PSD regulations.

The EPD has determined that the revised maximum predicted impacts on the Cohutta Wilderness Area (i.e., Class I Area) due to the proposed revised facility configuration will consume 2% of the annual SO₂ increment; 6.8% of the 24-hour SO₂ increment; 4.96% of the 3-hour SO₂ increment; 3.6% of the annual NO₂ increment; 2.5% of the annual PM₁₀ increment; and 7.87% of the 24-hour PM₁₀ increment. With this in mind, EPD has concluded that the facility will not adversely affect the air quality (i.e., exceed the allowable Class II and Class I incremental increases in ambient concentrations of PM₁₀, SO₂, and NO_x).

The Preliminary Determination is available for public review during normal business hours at the following locations: (1) EPD-Air Protection Branch office, 4244 International Parkway, Suite 120, Atlanta, Georgia 30354; and (2) The Murray County Courthouse, 121 N. 3rd Avenue, Chatsworth, Georgia 30705. Persons wishing to comment on the Preliminary Determination are invited to submit their comments in writing to the EPD at the above Atlanta address, postmarked no later than 30 days after date of publication in the newspaper. All comments postmarked on or prior to that date will be considered by the Division in making its final decision on the permit.

Any requests for a public hearing must be made in writing within the 30 day public comment period. Such requests should specify in detail the portion of the Air Quality Control Rules which the individual believes may not have been adequately reviewed. A public hearing may be held if the Director of the EPD finds that such a hearing would assist the EPD in a proper review of the proposed facility's capability to comply with the requirements of Federal and State Air Quality Control regulations. State laws specify that a permit shall be issued on evidence satisfactory to the Director of compliance with applicable State and Federal regulations and requirements.

After the comment period has expired, the EPD will issue a Final Determination relative to the facility's application. Copies of the Final Determination, comments received, and any other relevant information will then be made available for public review during normal business hours at the above designated sites.