

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

February 8, 2012

VIA OVERNIGHT DELIVERY AND E-MAIL TO

HOFFMAN.STEPHEN@EPA.GOV,
KOHLER.JAMES@EPA.GOV, AND
ENGLANDER.JANA@EPA.GOV

Mr. Stephen Hoffman
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Two Potomac Yard
2733 S. Crystal Drive
5th Floor, N-5838
Arlington, VA 22202-2733

Re: Final Safety Inspection Report for Plant Miller

Dear Mr. Hoffman:

By a letter dated January 12, 2012, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (“EPA”) provided to Alabama Power Company (“APC”) the final report regarding certain facilities for the management of coal combustion byproducts at APC’s Plant Miller (“Final Report”). EPA’s Final Report was prepared on behalf of EPA by Dewberry & Davis, LLC, and was dated July 2011.

For decades, APC has gone to great lengths to ensure that its structures and practices for the management of coal combustion byproducts are safe and protective of human health and the environment. We are pleased that EPA’s on-site inspection and document review have confirmed that APC’s facilities are well built, well maintained, and well run. As noted in the Final Report, the inspectors found that “[n]o existing or potential management unit safety deficiencies are recognized.” More specifically, regarding the ash pond, EPA’s report observes as follows: “dike embankments and spillway appear to be structurally sound based on a review of the engineering data provided by the owner’s technical staff and Dewberry engineers’ observations during the site visit.” Accordingly, EPA’s report demonstrates that there is no discernible threat of a release of coal combustion byproducts at Plant Miller.

The Final Report concluded that “no recommendations appear warranted at this time.” APC concurs. In addition, we have one comment on the text of the Final Report. In

February 8, 2012

Page 2

Paragraph 9.1, we would recommend replacing the phrase, "the plant manager," with "plant management."

APC appreciates this opportunity to comment. We continue to cooperate on a voluntary basis with EPA's efforts to gather information regarding the management of coal combustion byproducts at various facilities around the country. Please direct any future correspondence on this issue to me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Matthew W. Bowden". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'M'.

Matthew W. Bowden
Vice President
Environmental Affairs