

City Council Briefing of Permitting for Duke Energy Coal Ash Contact Water

Duke Energy is in the process of constructing a landfill to hold the remaining coal ash from their old coal plant in Arden. The Metropolitan Sewerage District of Buncombe County (MSD) has agreed to take any contact water through a force main tied into the MSD system. However, the State of North Carolina has required Duke Energy to have a contingency plan in place in the event MSD is unable to take all of the contact water. They have asked the City of Hendersonville to permit Duke Energy to dispose of contact water at our Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) for any excess leachate of the limit set by MSD (200,000 gallons per day). The amount Duke Energy anticipates to dispose of through a pump and haul process to our WWTP is slim to none; however this is a requirement from the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality. Our Utilities Director, Operator in Responsible Charge (ORC) of the WWTP, the WWTP Lab Supervisor, and the Environmental Compliance Coordinator have all reviewed contaminate analysis of the contact water and do not foresee any issues with our WWTP being able to effectively treat the water while maintaining our day-to-day processes. The WWTP has agreed to provide treatment services for anything MSD is unable to take (i.e. excess of 200,000 gpd). Since this would be a pump and haul process, we will charge our standard septage treatment rate of \$60/1000 gallons. The duration of this contingency plan would be during the filling of the coal ash landfill, which is anticipated to be complete in one year's time. Duke has asked to issue a permit with Hendersonville, to be in affect from the present until August 2022. A 500,000 gallon purchase order has been created to serve as a backup for their primary disposal method.

MSD has issued Duke Energy a groundwater remediation permit set to expire in 2025. MSD has said they will accept up to 250,000 gpd, but anticipates actual flow will be much lower.