



SWA

Sinclair Water Authority

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Joseph D. Witcher Plant Manager

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February 20, 2020

Dear Sinclair Water Authority Water Consumer,

Sinclair Water Authority (SWA) management received the following notice on Wednesday, February 19, 2020, from Margie DeBerry, Environmental Compliance Specialist of Georgia Environmental Protection Division, concerning conditions at the Plant Branch site, Putnam County, Ga:

"Good Morning,

This message is being sent to drinking water facilities that have surface water intakes on, near, or downstream of Lake Sinclair.

EPD received a notification today from Georgia Power about needing to bypass the Plant Branch coal ash pond dewatering wastewater treatment system due to excessive precipitation. The current plan was to begin discharging through outfall No. 003 early this morning. It was unknown at the time of the call if they would also need to begin discharging from their emergency outfalls authorized under the NPDES permit: outfall No. 05 for Ash Pond E, outfall No. 04 for Ash Pond C, and/or outfall No. 06 for Pond B. Georgia Power has stated that they will be conducting instream lake sampling at the locations specified in their Dewatering Plan.

The NPDES permit and Dewatering Plan for Plant Branch are attached for your information. Georgia Power should also be releasing a statement to the media today."

GA Power is required to sample for certain metals in their Discharge Permit. Those metals include Arsenic, Beryllium, Cadmium, Chromium, Cobalt, Copper, Lead, Mercury, Nickel, Selenium, and Zinc. Since June of 2019, Sinclair Water Authority has been sampling regularly for these metals as well. These samples are collected from Lake Sinclair, near our intake facility. SWA normally samples monthly when GA Power is not discharging from the dewatering wastewater treatment system and weekly when they are discharging. SWA will be increasing the frequency of sampling to 3 times weekly, Monday, Wednesday and Friday during this emergency Bypass Event. The first sample was collected Feb. 19, 2020 after receiving the notification.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Sinclair Water Authority at sinclairwaterauthority.com.

Thank you,

Joey Witcher
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