Dear Cape Fear Plant neighbor,

I hope this message finds you well in 2015. As you may remember, Duke Energy retired the Cape Fear coal-fired power plant in 2012 as part of our ongoing commitment to reliably meet future energy needs and transition to cleaner power generation sources. With that in mind, I wanted to share a few updates about activities at the plant that may interest you:

**Upcoming implosion:** Over the past two years, we have been decommissioning the Cape Fear Plant with the goal of restoring the site to ground level. Last year, we removed the smokestacks and precipitators, and are now preparing to demolish the remaining structures. The powerhouse and boilers are scheduled to be imploded in early March 2015. The implosion event is subject to change based on weather forecasts and site conditions. While the brief noise may be audible near the site, we do not expect a significant impact to the community. You can find additional information about our decommissioning program at duke-energy.com/coal-decommissioning.

**Installing groundwater wells:** We are initiating a comprehensive study of groundwater near ash basins at our North Carolina coal plants. These data points will help inform ash basins closure decisions and will help determine any future groundwater monitoring requirements. The process involves installing additional groundwater monitoring wells across our 14 plant sites, including the Cape Fear Plant. Well installation should not affect you, but may be visible. We expect well drilling to last about two to three months.

We have been monitoring groundwater near the ash basins since 2010 and report data to state regulators routinely. We have no indication of off-site groundwater impacts or any reason for concern for neighboring drinking water wells.

**Closing ash basins:** Cape Fear is one of the 10 North Carolina sites that will follow a classification process outlined in new state law for how basins should be closed and when. A new federal coal ash rule was also finalized in December 2014, and we’re working to understand how those requirements will affect the plant. Scientific and engineering studies are underway – these studies will help to inform our closure recommendations. Any closure method we propose will protect groundwater and comply with these regulations. For more information about our ash management practices, visit duke-energy.com/ash-management.

**Brickhaven mine reclamation project:** In November 2014, Duke Energy submitted coal ash excavation plans to state regulators for four plants (Asheville, Dan River, Riverbend and Sutton). The excavation plans detail a multiphase approach for removing coal ash from the sites and include proposals to reclaim two surface mines, including the Brickhaven mine in Chatham County. This mine is operated by Duke Energy’s contractor, Charah Inc.

In the coming weeks, Charah will mobilize to begin grading and site preparations at the mine, so neighbors may notice an intermittent increase in truck traffic. Then, Charah and Duke Energy would need to receive necessary permits before moving ash to the site.

I hope you find this update helpful and informative. We appreciate your patience as we make advancements at the site. We will continue to keep you informed of significant milestones. If you have questions, please feel free to contact us at 800.265.6518 or CoalAshQuestions@duke-energy.com.

Best regards,

Indira Everett
District Manager, Duke Energy