



# The Mobile Bay National Estuary Program

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**The Mobile Bay National Estuary Program caps off a year of intensive research with the release of the short film, *The Unintended Consequences of Convenience: The Story of Coal Ash in Alabama*.**

Today, The Mobile Bay National Estuary Program released its film, *The Unintended Consequences of Convenience: The Story of Coal Ash in Alabama*. It can be viewed at <http://www.mobilebaynep.com/Delta>. The educational, animated, piece is the culmination of a year of intensive research into the EPA's Coal Combustion Residuals (CCR) rule and Alabama Power's plan to close-in-place the 597-acre Plant Barry coal ash pond - situated on the banks of the Mobile River.

During the course of the research and production of the film, MBNEP gathered extensive literature related to the CCR Rule and closure options and contracted two firms to conduct independent analyses of Alabama Power's Closure Plan. Re-known firm, Cook Hydrogeology, assessed geologic and hydrologic factors underlying the Plan and D'Apollonia Engineers, a civil, environmental, and geotechnical engineering services firm, who reviewed factors related to structural integrity aspects of that Plan.

MBNEP began development of this film after being approached by stakeholders and elected officials seeking information on Alabama Power's closure plan to close-in-place the coal ash pond at Plant Barry.

The film, supported in part through funding from Mobile and Baldwin counties, provides detailed analyses and comparisons of factors relating to the two CCR-approved closure options of Barry's pond, close-in-place or close-by-removal, with facts and information to help inform community understanding of the Plan.

Concurrently, MBNEP is facilitating development of a comprehensive management plan for the watersheds where Plant Barry is located, in the Mobile-Tensaw Delta. This Plan, which will require extensive public input from people who live, work, and play in the Delta, will focus on informing the greater community about this complex of watersheds with data related to governance, demographics, socioeconomics, geology, geography, biology, ecology, hydrology, and climate, along with the effects of its land uses. That Plan will require over a year to complete and ensure that any recommended conservation or restoration efforts are based in sound science and fit into an overall management program.

The mission of the Mobile Bay National Estuary Program is to provide the necessary tools and support community-based efforts to promote the wise stewardship of the quality and living resources of Alabama's estuarine waters.

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