



COAL ASH PERMIT

State environmental regulators are gathering comments on a proposed air quality permit that would let Duke Energy reprocess and recycle coal ash stored at the Buck Plant in Salisbury. The 30-day public comment period wrapped up with a public hearing on April 10. A 2016 state law requires Duke to reprocess coal ash at three of its 14 North Carolina coal plants. Much of the ash is too high in carbon to be re-used in concrete and other building products, so it has to be reburned to reduce the excess carbon. To reburn the ash, Duke has hired SEFA Group of South Carolina to build incinerators at three plants - the Buck Plant, the H.F. Lee Plant in Wayne County, and the Cape Fear Plant in Chatham County. "Most of our ash has 8 to 12 percent carbon left in it. The concrete industry wants 2 to 3 percent," Duke spokeswoman Erin Culbert said. "This technology will allow us to remove that additional carbon, so we will have a highly desirable product for that market."

Because the coal ash will be burned, Duke needs approval to modify the air quality permits at the three plants. The Buck Plant is the first to go through the permitting process.

Source – WFAE Radio