

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2019

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HOUSE BILL 572

Short Title: Req Prop. Disposal/Certain Coal Ash Impdmts. (Public)

Sponsors: Representative Setzer.

For a complete list of sponsors, refer to the North Carolina General Assembly web site.

Referred to: Energy and Public Utilities, if favorable, Environment, if favorable, Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House

April 4, 2019

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO REQUIRE CERTAIN LARGE COAL ASH IMPOUNDMENTS TO BE
MANAGED AS HIGH-RISK IMPOUNDMENTS AND EXCAVATED.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

SECTION 1. G.S. 130A-309.213 reads as rewritten:

"§ 130A-309.213. Prioritization of coal combustion residuals surface impoundments.

(a) As soon as practicable, but no later than December 31, 2015, the Department shall develop proposed classifications for all coal combustion residuals surface impoundments, including active and retired sites, for the purpose of closure and remediation based on these sites' risks to public health, safety, and welfare; the environment; and natural resources and shall determine a schedule for closure and required remediation that is based on the degree of risk to public health, safety, and welfare; the environment; and natural resources posed by the impoundments and that gives priority to the closure and required remediation of impoundments that pose the greatest risk. In assessing the risk, the Department shall evaluate information received pursuant to G.S. 130A-309.211 and G.S. 130A-309.212 and any other information deemed relevant.

...

(d) No later than 30 days after expiration of the deadline set forth in G.S. 130A-309.211(c1), or any applicable extension granted by the Secretary pursuant G.S. 130A-309.211(c1), the Department shall issue a final classification for each impoundment as follows:

(1) The Department shall classify an impoundment as low-risk if the impoundment owner satisfies both of the following criteria:

a. Has established permanent water supplies as required for the impoundment pursuant to G.S. 130A-309.211(c1).

b. Has rectified any deficiencies identified by, and otherwise complied with the requirements of, any dam safety order issued by the Environmental Management Commission for the impoundment pursuant to G.S. 143-215.32. No later than July 1, 2018, the Department shall conduct the annual inspection of each dam associated with a coal combustion residuals surface impoundment required for that year, to detect any deficiencies and to ascertain, at a minimum, whether the dam is sufficiently strong, maintained in good repair and operating condition, does not pose a danger to life or



1 property, and satisfies minimum streamflow requirements. The
2 Department shall issue written findings of fact for each inspection and
3 present such findings to the Environmental Management Commission.
4 If the Department detects any deficiencies, the Commission shall issue
5 an order directing the owner of the dam to take action as may be
6 deemed necessary by the Commission within a time limited by the
7 order, but not later than 90 days after issuance of the order.

8 (2) All other impoundments shall be classified as intermediate-risk.

9 (d1) Notwithstanding the provisions for classification set forth in subsections (a) through
10 (d) of this section, the Department shall classify any coal combustion residuals surface
11 impoundments located at a single site that contain more than 20 million tons of coal combustion
12 residuals as high-risk and require closure in accordance with G.S. 130A-309.214(a)(1), except
13 that such impoundments shall be closed as soon as practicable, but no later than December 31,
14 2029.

15"

16 **SECTION 2.** This act is effective when it becomes law.