

*Peach State Poison*

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What are the harmful effects of coal ash leaking into water supplies in Carroll County? To what extent is Georgia Power polluting and affecting water quality? In 2015, the EPA required coal-powered plants to monitor water quality near their plants. However, since 2018, the EPA has been directed to repeal previous decisions and not make it required for coal-powered plants to monitor their water levels. I will collect data from the EPA and environmental organizations to analyze the impact of emissions from coal-powered plants on water pollution in Georgia. I plan to analyze water pollution levels between 2015 and 2019 when the EPA instituted regulations requiring coal-powered plants to monitor water quality local to the plants. I expect to find a strong relationship between an increase in water pollution and emissions from coal-powered plants. In particular, I expect to find that there is a strong relationship between coal-ash-contaminated water and coal-powered plants run by Georgia Power. Coal-powered plants pollute water sources, including major rivers and lakes. High levels of pollution could lead to plant closures and other potential job losses. Water pollution monitoring is important because, without it, we do not know exactly how much coal-powered plants affect our rivers and drinking water supply.