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## **Monroe County and Altamaha Riverkeeper to conduct independent residential well testing near Plant Scherer**

*Juliette, GA*--Due to ongoing concerns over pollution of residential groundwater wells near Plant Scherer's coal ash, Monroe County and Altamaha Riverkeeper will coordinate an investigation by an independent environmental consulting firm to collect residential well samples for analysis by an accredited laboratory. The scope of the well sampling will be tailored to provide additional data concerning whether coal ash disposal areas at Plant Scherer have possibly impacted residential wells in the vicinity of the plant.

Monroe County and Altamaha Riverkeeper will advise the public further as the investigation proceeds.

"Given concerns over potential pollution of groundwater near Plant Scherer, Monroe County is investigating the issue to determine appropriate steps which may be necessary to safeguard the interests of residents and the County," said Greg Tapley, Chairman of the Monroe County Board of Commissioners. "A central component of the investigation is the collection of reliable data concerning groundwater quality in the vicinity of Plant Scherer and its coal ash. The County appreciates Altamaha Riverkeeper's efforts in raising awareness of these concerns and its continued cooperation as this investigation proceeds."

"Following Altamaha Riverkeeper's previous investigation, we are glad to work with Monroe County to provide updated sampling and analysis of coal ash pollution in residential wells near Plant Scherer," said Fletcher Sams, ARK Executive Director. "It is the core mission of the Riverkeeper to protect clean water from pollution within the Altamaha watershed. As a result, the Riverkeeper welcomes a continued investigation of groundwater pollution by an independent, professional environmental consultant to uncover more answers concerning impacts on groundwater from Plant Scherer's 16 million tons of coal ash stored in an unlined pit."