"**§ 130A-309.213. Variance authority.**

(a) In recognition of the complexity and magnitude of the issues surrounding the management of coal combustion residuals and coal combustion residuals surface impoundments, the General Assembly authorizes the Commission to grant a variance to extend any deadline for closure of an impoundment established under G.S. 130A-309.212 in conformance with the requirements of this section. To request such a variance the owner of an impoundment shall, no earlier than two years prior to the applicable deadline, submit an application in a form acceptable to the Department which shall include, at a minimum, all of the following information: identification of the site, applicable requirements, and applicable deadlines for which a variance is sought, and the site-specific circumstances that support the need for the variance. The owner of the impoundment shall also provide detailed information that demonstrates (i) the owner has substantially complied with all other requirements and deadlines established by this Part; (ii) the owner has made good faith efforts to comply with the applicable deadline for closure of the impoundment; and (iii) that compliance with the deadline cannot be achieved by application of best available technology found to be economically reasonable at the time and would produce serious hardship without equal or greater benefits to the public. As soon as practicable, but no later than 60 days from receipt of an application, the Secretary shall evaluate the information submitted in conjunction with the application, and any other information the Secretary deems relevant, to determine whether the information supports issuance of a variance. After such evaluation, if the Secretary finds that the information supports issuance of a variance from the deadline, the Secretary shall issue a proposed variance. Within 10 days after a proposed variance has been issued, the Secretary shall issue a written declaration, including findings of fact, documenting the proposed variance. The Department shall provide for public participation on the proposed variance in the manner provided by G.S. 130A-309.212(b) and shall take the public input received through the process into account in its decision concerning the proposed variance. Within 30 days of the receipt of all public input received, the Department shall submit a proposed variance to the Coal Ash Management Commission. The Commission shall evaluate all information submitted in accordance with this section and any other information the Commission deems relevant. The Commission shall only approve a variance if it determines that compliance with the deadline cannot be achieved by application of best available technology found to be economically reasonable at the time and would produce serious hardship without equal or greater benefits to the public. The Commission shall issue its determination in writing, including findings in support of its determination. If the Commission fails to act on a variance request within 60 days of receipt, the variance shall be deemed denied. Parties aggrieved by a final decision of the Commission pursuant to this subsection may appeal the decision as provided under Article 3 of Chapter 150B of the General Statutes.

(b) A variance granted pursuant to this section shall not extend a deadline for closure of an impoundment more than three years beyond the date applicable to the impoundment as provided under G.S. 130A-309.212.

(c) No more than one variance may be granted pursuant to this section per impoundment.

"Subpart 3. Use of Coal Combustion Products in Structural Fill.

"**§ 130A-309.214. Applicability.**

The provisions of this Subpart shall apply to the siting, design, construction, operation, and closure of projects that utilize coal combustion products for structural fill.

"**§ 130A-309.215. Permit requirements for projects using coal combustion products for structural fill.**

(a) Permit Requirements. –

(1) Projects using coal combustion products as structural fill involving the placement of less than 8,000 tons of coal combustion products per acre or less than 80,000 tons of coal combustion products in total per project, which proceed in compliance with the requirements of this section and rules adopted thereunder, are deemed permitted. Any person proposing such a project shall submit an application for a permit to the Department upon such form as the Department may prescribe, including, at a minimum, the information set forth in subdivision (1) of subsection (b) of this section.

(2) No person shall commence or operate a project using coal combustion residuals as structural fill involving the placement of 8,000 or more tons of coal combustion products per acre or 80,000 or more tons of coal combustion products in total per project without first receiving an individual permit from the Department. Any person proposing such a project shall submit an application for a permit to the Department upon such form as the Department may prescribe, including, at a minimum, the information set forth in subdivisions (1) and (2) of subsection (b) of this section.

(b) Information to Be Provided to the Department. – At least 60 days before initiation of a proposed project using coal combustion products as structural fill, the person proposing the project shall submit all of the following information to the Department on a form as prescribed by the Department:

(1) For projects involving placement of less than 8,000 tons of coal combustion products per acre or less than 80,000 tons of coal combustion products in total per project, the person shall provide, at a minimum, the following information:

a. The description of the nature, purpose, and location of the project.

b. The estimated start and completion dates for the project.

c. An estimate of the volume of coal combustion products to be used in the project.

d. A Toxicity Characteristic Leaching Procedure analysis from a representative sample of each different coal combustion product's source to be used in the project for, at a minimum, all of the following constituents: arsenic, barium, cadmium, lead, chromium, mercury, selenium, and silver.

e. A signed and dated statement by the owner of the land on which the structural fill is to be placed, acknowledging and consenting to the use of coal combustion products as structural fill on the property and agreeing to record the fill in accordance with the requirements of G.S. 130A-390.219.

f. The name, address, and contact information for the generator of the coal combustion products.

g. Physical location of the project at which the coal combustion products were generated.

(2) For projects involving placement of 8,000 or more tons of coal combustion products per acre or 80,000 or more tons of coal combustion products in total per project, the person shall provide all information required pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection and shall provide construction plans for the project, including a stability analysis as the Department may require. If required by the Department, a stability analysis shall be prepared, signed, and sealed by a professional engineer in accordance with sound engineering practices. A construction plan shall, at a minimum, include a groundwater monitoring system and an encapsulation liner system in compliance with the requirements of G.S. 130A-309.216.

"**§ 130A-309.216. Design, construction, and siting requirements for projects using coal combustion products for structural fill.**

(a) Design, Construction, and Operation of Structural Fill Sites. –

(1) A structural fill site must be designed, constructed, operated, closed, and maintained in such a manner as to minimize the potential for harmful release

of constituents of coal combustion residuals to the environment or create a nuisance to the public.

(2) Coal combustion products shall be collected and transported in a manner that will prevent nuisances and hazards to public health and safety. Coal combustion products shall be moisture conditioned, as necessary, and transported in covered trucks to prevent dusting.

(3) Coal combustion products shall be placed uniformly and shall be compacted to standards, including in situ density, compaction effort, and relative density, specified by a registered professional engineer for a specific end-use purpose.

(4) Equipment shall be provided that is capable of placing and compacting the coal combustion products and handling the earthwork required during the periods that coal combustion products are received at the fill project.

(5) The coal combustion product structural fill project shall be effectively maintained and operated as a nondischarge system to prevent discharge to surface water resulting from the project.

(6) The coal combustion product structural fill project shall be effectively maintained and operated to ensure no violations of groundwater standards adopted by the Commission pursuant to Article 21 of Chapter 143 of the General Statutes due to the project.

(7) Surface waters resulting from precipitation shall be diverted away from the active coal combustion product placement area during filling and construction activity.

(8) Site development shall comply with the North Carolina Sedimentation Pollution Control Act of 1973, as amended.

(9) The structural fill project shall be operated with sufficient dust control measures to minimize airborne emissions and to prevent dust from creating a nuisance or safety hazard and shall not violate applicable air quality regulations.

(10) Coal combustion products utilized on an exterior slope of a structural fill shall not be placed with a slope greater than 3.0 horizontal to 1.0 vertical.

(11) Compliance with this subsection shall not insulate any of the owners or operators of a structural fill project from claims for damages to surface waters, groundwater, or air resulting from the operation of the structural fill project. If the project fails to comply with the requirements of this section, the constructor, generator, owner, or operator shall notify the Department and shall take any immediate corrective action as may be required by the Department.

(b) Liners, Leachate Collection System, Cap, and Groundwater Monitoring System Required for Large Structural Fills. – For projects involving placement of 8,000 or more tons of coal combustion products per acre or 80,000 or more tons of coal combustion products in total per project shall have an encapsulation liner system. The encapsulation liner system shall be constructed on and around the structural fill and shall be designed to efficiently contain, collect, and remove leachate generated by the coal combustion products, as well as separate the coal combustion products from any exposure to surrounding environs. At a minimum, the components of the liner system shall consist of the following:

(1) A base liner, which shall consist of one of the following designs:

a. A composite liner utilizing a compacted clay liner. This composite liner is one liner that consists of two components: a geomembrane liner installed above and in direct and uniform contact with a compacted clay liner with a minimum thickness of 24 inches (0.61 m) and a permeability of no more than 1.0×10^{-7} centimeters per second.

b. A composite liner utilizing a geosynthetic clay liner. This composite liner is one liner that consists of three components: a geomembrane liner installed above and in uniform contact with a geosynthetic clay liner overlying a compacted clay liner with a minimum thickness of 18 inches (0.46 m) and a permeability of no more than 1.0×10^{-5} centimeters per second.

(2) A leachate collection system, which is constructed directly above the base liner and shall be designed to effectively collect and remove leachate from the project.

(3) A cap system that is designed to minimize infiltration and erosion as follows:

a. The cap system shall be designed and constructed to (i) have a permeability less than or equal to the permeability of any base liner system or the in situ subsoils underlying the structural fill, or the permeability specified for the final cover in the effective permit, or a permeability no greater than 1 x 10^{-5} centimeters per second, whichever is less; (ii) minimize infiltration through the closed structural fill by the use of a low-permeability barrier that contains a minimum 18 inches of earthen material; and (iii) minimize erosion of the cap system and protect the low-permeability barrier from root penetration by use of an erosion layer that contains a minimum of six inches of earthen material that is capable of sustaining native plant growth.

b. The Department may approve an alternative cap system if the owner or operator can adequately demonstrate (i) the alternative cap system will achieve an equivalent or greater reduction in infiltration as the low-permeability barrier specified in sub-subdivision a. of this subdivision and (ii) the erosion layer will provide equivalent or improved protection as the erosion layer specified in sub-subdivision a. of this subdivision.

(4) A groundwater monitoring system, that shall be approved by the Department and, at a minimum, consists of all of the following:

a. A sufficient number of wells, installed at appropriate locations and depths, to yield groundwater samples from the uppermost aquifer that represent the quality of groundwater passing the relevant point of compliance as approved by the Department. A down-gradient monitoring system shall be installed at the relevant point of compliance so as to ensure detection of groundwater contamination in the uppermost aquifer.

b. A proposed monitoring plan, which shall be certified by a licensed geologist or professional engineer to be effective in providing early detection of any release of hazardous constituents from any point in a structural fill or leachate surface impoundment to the uppermost aquifer, so as to be protective of public health, safety, and welfare; the environment; and natural resources.

c. A groundwater monitoring program, which shall include consistent sampling and analysis procedures that are designed to ensure monitoring results that provide an accurate representation of groundwater quality at the background and down-gradient wells. Monitoring shall be conducted through construction and the post-closure care period. The sampling procedures and frequency shall be protective of public health, safety, and welfare; the environment; and natural resources.

d. A detection monitoring program for all Appendix I constituents. For purposes of this subdivision, the term "Appendix I" means Appendix I to 40 C.F.R. Part 258, "Appendix I Constituents for Detection Monitoring," including subsequent amendments and editions.

e. An assessment monitoring program and corrective action plan if one or more of the constituents listed in Appendix I is detected in exceedance of a groundwater protection standard.

(c) Siting for Structural Fill Facilities. – Coal combustion products used as a structural fill shall not be placed:

(1) Within 50 feet of any property boundary.

(2) Within 300 horizontal feet of a private dwelling or well.

(3) Within 50 horizontal feet of the top of the bank of a perennial stream or other surface water body.
(4) Within four feet of the seasonal high groundwater table.
(5) Within a 100-year floodplain except as authorized under G.S. 143-215.54A(b). A site located in a floodplain shall not restrict the flow of the 100-year flood, reduce the temporary water storage capacity of the floodplain or result in washout of solid waste so as to pose a hazard to human life, wildlife or land or water resources.
(6) Within 50 horizontal feet of a wetland, unless, after consideration of the chemical and physical impact on the wetland, the United States Army Corps of Engineers issues a permit or waiver for the fill.

"§ 130A-309.217. Financial assurance requirements for large projects using coal combustion products for structural fill.

(a) For projects involving placement of 8,000 or more tons of coal combustion products per acre or 80,000 or more tons of coal combustion products in total per project, the applicant for a permit or a permit holder to construct or operate a structural fill shall establish financial assurance that will ensure that sufficient funds are available for facility closure, post-closure maintenance and monitoring, any corrective action that the Department may require, and to satisfy any potential liability for sudden and nonsudden accidental occurrences, and subsequent costs incurred by the Department in response to an incident at a structural fill project, even if the applicant or permit holder becomes insolvent or ceases to reside, be incorporated, do business, or maintain assets in the State.

(b) To establish sufficient availability of funds under this section, the applicant for a permit or a permit holder may use insurance, financial tests, third-party guarantees by persons who can pass the financial test, guarantees by corporate parents who can pass the financial test, irrevocable letters of credit, trusts, surety bonds, or any other financial device, or any combination of the foregoing shown to provide protection equivalent to the financial protection that would be provided by insurance if insurance were the only mechanism used.

(c) The applicant for a permit or a permit holder and any parent, subsidiary, or other affiliate of the applicant, permit holder, or parent, including any joint venturer with a direct or indirect interest in the applicant, permit holder, or parent shall be a guarantor of payment for closure, post-closure maintenance and monitoring, any corrective action that the Department may require, and to satisfy any potential liability for sudden and nonsudden accidental occurrences arising from the operation of the hazardous waste facility.

(d) Assets used to meet the financial assurance requirements of this section shall be in a form that will allow the Department to readily access funds for the purposes set out in this section. Assets used to meet financial assurance requirements of this section shall not be accessible to the permit holder except as approved by the Department.

(e) The Department may provide a copy of any filing that an applicant for a permit or a permit holder submits to the Department to meet the financial responsibility requirements under this section to the State Treasurer. The State Treasurer shall review the filing and provide the Department with a written opinion as to the adequacy of the filing to meet the purposes of this section, including any recommended changes.

(f) In order to continue to hold a permit for a structural fill, a permit holder must maintain financial responsibility as required by this Part and must provide any information requested by the Department to establish that the permit holder continues to maintain financial responsibility.

(g) An applicant for a permit or a permit holder shall satisfy the Department that the applicant or permit holder has met the financial responsibility requirements of this Part before the Department is required to otherwise review the application.

"§ 130A-309.218. Closure of projects using coal combustion products for structural fill.

(a) Closure of Structural Fill Projects. –
(1) No later than 30 working days or 60 calendar days, whichever is less, after coal combustion product placement has ceased, the final cover shall be applied over the coal combustion product placement area.
(2) The final surface of the structural fill shall be graded and provided with drainage systems that do all of the following:
a. Minimize erosion of cover materials.

(5) Monitor and maintain the groundwater monitoring system in accordance with G.S. 130A-309.216 and monitor the surface water in accordance with 15A NCAC 13B .0602.

(c) Completion of Post-Closure Care. – Following completion of the post-closure care period, the constructor or operator shall submit a certification, signed by a registered professional engineer, to the Department, verifying that post-closure care has been completed in accordance with the post-closure plan, and include the certification in the operating record.

"**§ 130A-309.219. Recordation of projects using coal combustion products for structural fill.**

(a) The owner of land where coal combustion products have been used in volumes of more than 1,000 cubic yards shall file a statement of the volume and locations of the coal combustion residuals with the Register of Deeds in the county or counties where the property is located. The statement shall identify the parcel of land according to the complete legal description on the recorded deed, either by metes and bounds or by reference to a recorded plat map. The statement shall be signed and acknowledged by the landowners in the form prescribed by G.S. 47-38 through G.S. 47-43.

(b) Recordation shall be required within 90 days after completion of a structural fill project using coal combustion residuals.

(c) The Register of Deeds, in accordance with G.S. 161-14, shall record the notarized statement and index it in the Grantor Index under the name of the owner of the land. The original notarized statement with the Register's seal and the date, book, and page number of recording shall be returned to the Department after recording.

(d) When property with more than 1,000 cubic yards of coal combustion products is sold, leased, conveyed, or transferred in any manner, the deed or other instrument of transfer shall contain in the description section in no smaller type than used in the body of the deed or instrument a statement that coal combustion products have been used as structural fill material on the property.

"**§ 130A-309.220. Department of Transportation projects.**

The Department and the Department of Transportation may agree on specific design, construction, siting, operation, and closure criteria that may apply to the Department of Transportation structural fill projects.

"**§ 130A-309.221. Inventory and inspection of certain structural fill projects.**

No later than July 1, 2015, the Department shall prepare an inventory of all structural fill projects with a volume of 10,000 cubic yards or more. The Department shall update the structural fill project inventory at least annually. The Department shall inspect each structural fill project with a volume of 10,000 cubic yards or more at least annually to determine if the project or facility has been constructed and operated in compliance with Section .1700 of Subchapter B of Chapter 13 of Title 15A of the North Carolina Administrative Code (Requirements for Beneficial Use of Coal Combustion By-Products) and Section .1200 of Subchapter T of Chapter 2 of Title 15A of the North Carolina Administrative Code (Coal Combustion Products Management), as applicable.

"**§ 130A-309.222. Amendments required to rules.**

Requirements under existing rules governing the use of coal combustion products for structural fill that do not conflict with the provisions of this Subpart shall continue to apply to such projects. The Environmental Management Commission shall amend existing rules governing the use of coal combustion products for structural fill as necessary to implement the provisions of this Subpart. Such rules shall be exempt from the requirements of G.S. 150B-19.3.

"Subpart 4. Enforcement.

"**§ 130A-309.223. General enforcement.**

Except as otherwise provided in this Subpart, the provisions of this Part shall be enforced as provided in Article 1 of this Chapter.

"**§ 130A-309.224. Penalties for making false statements.**

Any person who knowingly makes any false statement, representation, or certification in any application, record, report, plan, or other document filed or required to be maintained under this Part or a rule implementing this Part shall be guilty of a Class 2 misdemeanor, which may include a fine not to exceed ten thousand dollars ($10,000)."

SECTION 3.(b) Notwithstanding G.S. 130A-309.211 or G.S. 130A-309.212, as enacted by Section 3(a) of this act, and except as otherwise preempted by the requirements of

b. Promote drainage of area precipitation, minimize infiltration, and prevent ponding of surface water on the structural fill.

(3) Other erosion control measures, such as temporary mulching, seeding, or silt barriers shall be installed to ensure no visible coal combustion product migration to adjacent properties until the beneficial end use of the project is realized.

(4) The constructor or operator shall submit a certification to the Department signed and sealed by a registered professional engineer or signed by the Secretary of the Department of Transportation or the Secretary's designee certifying that all requirements of this Subpart have been met. The report shall be submitted within 30 days of application of the final cover.

(b) Additional Closure and Post-Closure Requirements for Large Structural Fill Projects. – For projects involving placement of 8,000 or more tons of coal combustion products per acre or 80,000 or more tons of coal combustion products in total per project, a constructor or operator shall conduct post-closure care. Post-closure care shall be conducted for 30 years, which period may be increased by the Department upon a determination that a longer period is necessary to protect public health, safety, and welfare; the environment; and natural resources, or decreased upon a determination that a shorter period is sufficient to protect public health, safety, and welfare; the environment; and natural resources. Additional closure and post-closure requirements include, at a minimum, all of the following:

(1) Submit a written closure plan that includes all of the following:

a. A description of the cap liner system and the methods and procedures used to install the cap that conforms to the requirement in G.S. 130A-309.216(b).

b. An estimate of the largest area of the structural fill project ever requiring the cap liner system at any time during the overall construction period that is consistent with the drawings prepared for the structural fill.

c. An estimate of the maximum inventory of coal combustion products ever on-site over the construction duration of the structural fill.

d. A schedule for completing all activities necessary to satisfy the closure criteria set forth in this section.

(2) Submit a written post-closure plan that includes all of the following:

a. A description of the monitoring and maintenance activities required for the project and the frequency at which these activities must be performed.

b. The name, address, and telephone number of the person or office responsible for the project during the post-closure period.

c. A description of the planned uses of the property during the post-closure period. Post-closure use of the property must not disturb the integrity of the cap system, base liner system, or any other components of the containment system or the function of the monitoring systems, unless necessary to comply with the requirements of this subsection. The Department may approve disturbance if the constructor or operator demonstrates that disturbance of the cap system, base liner system, or other component of the containment system will not increase the potential threat to public health, safety, and welfare; the environment; and natural resources.

d. The cost estimate for post-closure activities required under this section.

(3) Maintain the integrity and effectiveness of any cap system, including repairing the system as necessary to correct the defects of settlement, subsidence, erosion, or other events and preventing run-on and runoff from eroding or otherwise damaging the cap system.

(4) Maintain and operate the leachate collection system. The Department may allow the constructor or operator to stop managing leachate upon a satisfactory demonstration that leachate from the project no longer poses a threat to human health and the environment.