**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, BY ADDING SECTION 48‑1‑105 SO AS TO ESTABLISH A MAXIMUM DAILY ARSENIC DISCHARGE FOR ANY COAL‑FIRED POWER PLANT DISCHARGING INTO THE WATEREE RIVER FROM ANY WATER SOURCE; TO REQUIRE THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL TO DEVELOP A PLAN TO REMOVE THE ARSENIC CONTAMINATION WITHIN FIVE YEARS FROM THE WATEREE RIVER AND GROUNDWATER CONNECTED TO THE RIVER AND TO PREVENT FURTHER CONTAMINATION OF THESE WATERS; AND TO REQUIRE THE DEPARTMENT TO SUBMIT THIS PLAN FOR APPROVAL WITHIN ONE YEAR TO THE COUNTY LEGISLATIVE DELEGATIONS OF THE COUNTIES THROUGH WHICH THE WATEREE RIVER FLOWS.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina:

SECTION 1. Chapter 1, Title 48, is amended by adding:

“Section 48‑1‑105. Any coal‑fired power plant that discharges wastewater into the Wateree River, directly or indirectly, or into groundwater that is hydrologically connected to the Wateree River, from any water source, including, but not limited to, any surface water, ground water, seepage, spillway, or reservoir, pond, or other wastewater holding system, must not exceed a daily maximum arsenic discharge of forty parts per billion.”

SECTION 2. The Department of Health and Environmental Control shall develop a plan to achieve removal of the arsenic contamination from the Wateree River and from groundwater that is hydrologically connected to the Wateree River and to prevent further arsenic contamination of these waters within five years. The plan must be submitted for approval to the legislative delegations of those counties through which the Wateree River flows within one year of this act’s effective date.

SECTION 3. This act takes effect upon approval by the Governor.

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