Plant Vogtle Water Use

If Allowed to Expand, Vogtle would use Seven Times as Much as Burke County

Burke County’s total water use is 83 million gallons per day. But most of the water in Burke County is used by Plant Vogtle. Take out Vogtle and Burke County’s water needs for public water supply, commercial, industrial, and agricultural uses combined average only 18 million gallons per day. Vogtle is a water hog.

Among Georgia’s 159 counties, Burke County ranks number 12 in highest total water use, just behind Dekalb County in Atlanta. But Dekalb County’s population is 677,959 and Burke County’s population is 23,299. What is the difference? Does a family in Atlanta use twenty-nine times more water than a Burke County family? No, the difference is that Burke County has a nuclear power plant. And now Southern Company wants to nearly double its water use by adding two more nuclear plants.

Burke County’s situation is reflected across Georgia. The state’s water use is approximately 5.5 billion gallons per day. The US Geological Survey estimates that thermo-electric-power water use in Georgia is about 2.7 billion gallons per day. Statewide, half of all available water is used to generate electric power by coal and nuclear power plants.