

Canadys gas plant would pollute air and increase healthcare costs

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A newly released report by the Harvard Data Science Initiative and the Southern Environmental Law Center analyzes the health impacts and related costs of air pollution from Santee Cooper and Dominion Energy's proposed gas plant in Canadys, South Carolina.



J HENRY FAIR

Report projects harmful air pollution from gas plant

Santee Cooper and Dominion Energy are proposing a new methane gas plant and pipeline on the banks of the Edisto River in Canadys, South Carolina. The report projects that the proposed plant — one of the largest gas plants in the United States — would emit annually at least 164.3 tons of fine particulate matter or “PM_{2.5},” a harmful form of air pollution that is unsafe at any level of exposure.

Emissions modeling revealed that **more than two million people in South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida** would be impacted by additional PM_{2.5} exposure (0.001 µg/m³) from the gas plant. A disproportionate number of Black residents and less wealthy residents would face the most severe pollution.

This pollution could result in up to \$28 million in healthcare related costs annually due to increased disease burden on impacted communities, increasing to \$36 million annually by 2040 with inflation.

What is PM_{2.5}?

Particulate matter, or PM_{2.5}, is a byproduct of the combustion of fossil fuels and a harmful form of air pollution. Its small size allows it to penetrate deep into the lungs and enter the bloodstream.

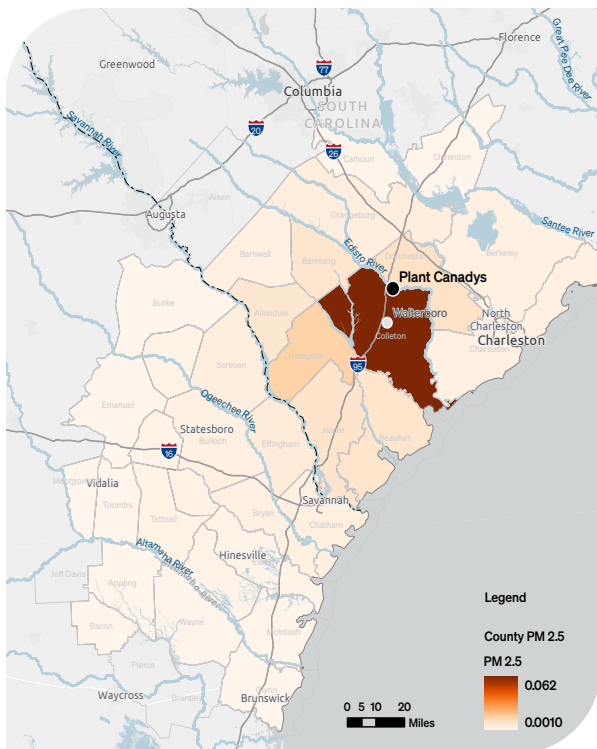
Even low levels of exposure can increase the risk of hospitalizations due to heart attack, pneumonia, cardiovascular issues, or, in some cases, stroke or cancer. Air pollution is the single largest environmental risk to human health, responsible for millions of premature deaths each year.

To view the report, scan this QR code or visit selc.org:



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Estimated County-Level Annual PM_{2.5} Concentrations Attributable to the Proposed Canadys Plant.