

Dirk Cook, Principal – Transportation, Southern Company

Dirk Cook is currently Principal - Transportation with Southern Company in Birmingham, AL, a position he has held since August 2007. Mr. Cook is jointly responsible for the negotiation of all coal and limestone transportation contracts related to the movement by rail, barge and truck of over 80 million tons of coal and limestone to Southern Company's twenty-one coal fired power plants.

He is an industry professional with over 34 years of increasing responsibility in the areas of coal transportation, river and port terminal operations, sales and marketing of coal and terminal services, coal mining and coal analysis.

Prior to joining Southern Company, Mr. Cook was Manager of Coal Transportation with NRG Energy in Princeton, NJ, responsible for all coal transportation activities related to the movement of 35 million tons of coal to NRG's eight coal fired power plants including contract negotiations, railcar fleet management, railcar leasing and new plant initiatives.

Prior positions include Vice President, Transportation with Horizon Natural Resources, Director of Transportation with Peabody COALSALES Company and Vice President of Operations and Sales with Kentucky Ohio Transportation, a subsidiary of Occidental Petroleum.

Mr. Cook is a former registered lobbyist and has held leadership positions in several industry related organizations including the National Mining Association and the West Virginia Coal Association and is a past director of the Mississippi Coal Exporters Council and Lexington Coal Exchange.

Mr. Cook holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from West Virginia University.