

Mark S. Berry, Ph.D., P.E.

Senior Vice President of Research, Environment and Sustainability | Southern Company

Dr. Mark S. Berry, P.E., is senior vice president of research, environment and sustainability for Southern Company Services. In this role, he oversees all environmental compliance strategies, stakeholder engagement, environmental stewardship and support for the Southern Company system. Berry also directs Southern Company's industry-leading research and development (R&D) organization, guiding the company's strategic advancement of technologies that provide clean, safe, reliable and affordable energy for customers in a net-zero future. This comprises developing low- and no-carbon technologies, including advanced nuclear, carbon capture, utilization and storage (CCUS), and the hydrogen economy; advancing energy storage, distributed generation and transportation innovations; modernizing the grid; and promoting energy equity and sustainability solutions.



Berry previously served as vice president of Southern Company Services R&D, as well as vice president of environmental and natural resources for Georgia Power, the largest subsidiary of Southern Company, where he oversaw Georgia Power-owned natural resources and managed sustainability, environmental compliance and stewardship programs to meet or surpass all environmental laws and regulations.

Over his career, Berry has held numerous positions of increasing responsibility, including director of Southern Company research and technology management, managing a research portfolio related to emission controls, energy efficiency, renewables, power delivery, central station generation and CCUS. He served as director in the generation sector at EPRI, where he managed R&D efforts in renewables, water management, carbon capture and storage, and advanced fossil generation; and director of energy and environment at Southern Research. He was also manager of environmental assessment for Southern Company's research and environmental affairs organization, where he led the company's regulatory response to federal rule-making activity and the environmental science research program.

Prior to joining Southern Company, Berry attained the commissioned rank of lieutenant commander in the United States Navy as a surface warfare officer. While on active duty, he served on the USS Gunston Hall (LSD-44) in the capacities of deck officer and combat information center officer. After joining the reserves, he served as an engineering officer supporting the USS Sentry (MCM-3) and as an intelligence officer supporting the Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA HQ).

Berry holds a bachelor's degree in mathematics from Alabama A&M University and a bachelor's and master's degree in mechanical engineering and Ph.D. in interdisciplinary engineering from the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB). He also earned a master's degree in public and private management from Birmingham-Southern College and is a registered professional engineer. He is a graduate and alumni member of Leadership Atlanta. Berry received a chief technology officer certificate from the Wharton School of Business at the University of Pennsylvania.

Berry is chair of the EPRI Research Advisory Council, vice chair of the Strategic Energy Institute at the Georgia Institute of Technology and advisory board member of the UAB School of Engineering. He is a board member of Wellstar Health System and serves as chair of the Georgia Wildlife Federation, as well as treasurer of the Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District and the International Society of Electrostatic Precipitation. Berry is also on the board of the National Wildlife Federation and Fernbank Museum of Natural History. He is a member of 100 Black Men of Atlanta and alumni member of the Institute for Georgia Environmental Leaders. Berry also teaches thermodynamics as an adjunct professor at UAB and is a program evaluator for the Engineering Accreditation Commission of the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology.

Berry is a lifetime member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc. He has established two scholarships for minority students pursuing a degree in engineering in the name of his grandfathers – an endowed scholarship in the name of Marion Luscious Nell at UAB, and the Simpson Berry Sr. Endowed Scholarship at Alabama A&M University.

Born and raised in Birmingham, Alabama, Berry and his wife, Crystal, have four children.