

## COAL ASH IN ILLINOIS

On May 4, 2010 the Environmental Protection Agency issued 2 proposals for regulating coal ash. The proposed rule offers two options: regulation of coal ash as a special waste under subtitle C of RCRA or regulation as a solid waste under subtitle D of RCRA. Regulation of coal ash under subtitle C of RCRA is essential to protect the health and environment of our communities .

### What Is Coal Ash?

Coal Ash is the waste left over from the burning of coal and oil to make electricity . Coal ash contains unsafe levels of contaminants that cause cancer and damage the nervous system such as:

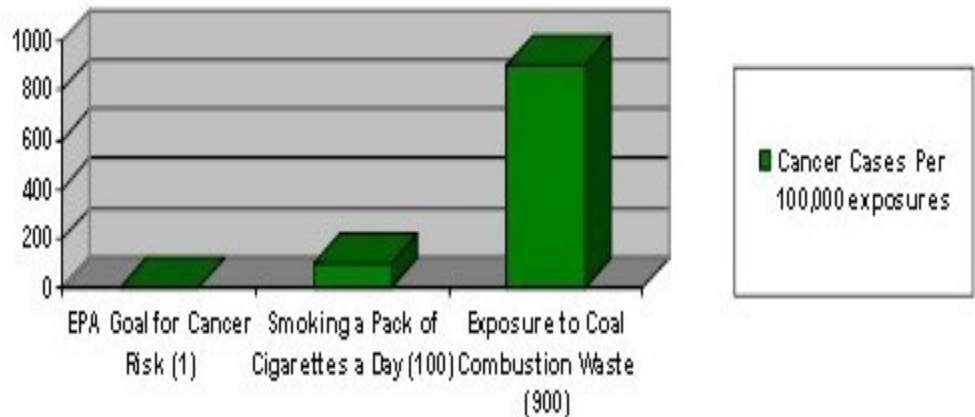
**Arsenic**  
**Mercury**  
**Selenium**  
**Chromium**  
**Cadmium**

For years, power and coal companies have been dumping poisonous coal ash into unlined landfills and unsafe ponds. Proper management of coal waste is critical in protecting public drinking water supplies and health of our natural environment.

### ILLINOIS COAL ASH- By the Numbers:

- **4.4 Million Tons:** amount of IL coal ash generated each year
- **83:** number of coal ash ponds in IL
- **17 :** number of coal ash ponds over 30 years old, making them far more likely to lack pollution safeguards

### More Dangerous Than Smoking a Pack of Cigarettes a Day



### The Tennessee Coal Ash Disaster.....



In December of 2008, Kingston Tennessee experienced one of the worst environmental disasters in our country's history. 1 billion gallons of toxic coal ash sludge burst through its dam and plundered 300 acres of the town, destroying homes, poisoning rivers and contaminating residential drinking waters. **The EPA has determined 2 ash ponds in Illinois that are**

**"high hazard" and could result in the same type of disaster.**

\* 8 sites in Illinois showed levels of pollutants above legal standards in their water. Possible health risks of exposure include:

- **Cancer**
- **Kidney damage**
- **Nervous system damage**
- **Neurological damage**



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# WHAT CAN YOU DO?

### ATTEND THE PUBLIC HEARING IN CHICAGO

Citizens from all over the Midwest will be gathering on **SEPTEMBER 16th** in Chicago, IL to show their support for federal regulations for coal ash waste that will protect our drinking water.

**Date:** September 16, 2010

**Time:** 10am-9pm

**12pm Press Conference**

**5pm Rally (corner of Congress and Balbo)**

**Location:** Hilton Chicago, 720 South Michigan Avenue, Chicago, IL 60605, Phone: (312) 922-4400.

**Pre-Register:** <http://www.epa.gov/epawaste/nonhaz/industrial/special/fossil/ccr-rule/ccrform.htm> .

**Note:** The last day to preregister will be September 13, 2010 by 5pm EDT



Visit our website to learn more about this issue and take further action to protect your community! :

[www.sierraclub.org/coalash](http://www.sierraclub.org/coalash)

### Collect POSTCARDS for Public Comments:

- We have a goal of collecting 5,000 public comments through out Illinois. We need EVERYONE to make this happen!
- If you are able to collect some in your own community we will send you postcards for you to collect. Please contact:

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