



Edwards Coal Fired Power Plant on the Illinois River south of Bartonville off Route 24 and across the river from Pekin: coal ash ponds above.

Speak Out for Clean Air and Water! Tuesday, Sept. 10th at the Gateway Building

Illinois EPA Listening Session on the Importance of Cleaning Up Coal Ash Sites

Two Sessions: 2to 4 p.m. and 6 to 8 p.m.

YOUR VOICE IS NEEDED FOR CLEAN AIR AND WATER! COAL ASH IS TOXIC

The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency will hold listening sessions on Tuesday, September 10th in Peoria at the Gateway Building, located at the foot of Hamilton Blvd., downtown Peoria at the riverfront. This is your chance to let IEPA know how important it is that coal ash ponds at coal-fired power plants be cleaned up. 22 of the 24 ponds reviewed at Illinois coal-fired power plants have already polluted the groundwater below the plants. This groundwater often connects with aquifer layers and the Illinois River. The coal ash in these ponds is toxic. It is loaded with heavy metals such as arsenic, lead, boron, manganese, mercury, and other health threatening pollutants. These contaminate area water resources and impact wildlife including fish.

Coal ash pollution is a serious public health and long-term public water supply risk to both people and the environment. Each coal ash pond location must receive a full review.

Coal fired-power plants Coal Ash Pond Clean-Up Key Points:

1. Closure of coal ash ponds Must prevent the ash from getting wet both now and in the future.
2. Closure of coal ash ponds with only a cap on the top of the pond is not acceptable if any ash in the pond is exposed to groundwater any time during the year or possible flooding.
3. Review of coal ash ponds by IEPA must consider all methods of closure including removal of the coal ash.
4. IEPA must require modelling predictions of how long groundwater pollution will continue for all closure options.
5. IEPA must require that the water wells monitoring for the basic background water quality to show what the area water contaminant levels are, comes from locations that are not within any area already affected by coal ash or power plant pollution, but from locations that have not been affected by the coal plants or other industry.
6. Water wells in the area should be tested for coal ash pollutants and the risk of contamination of these wells must be assessed.
7. Federal coal ash rules are not adequate and could be subject to removal at any time, which is why Illinois must establish strong and protective rules on coal ash to insure our water and environmental resources are protected for future generations and our state water resources.
8. Coal ash must be handled responsibly, with protections for workers and local areas including measures to limit drift of dust and air pollution during excavation and transport and at disposal.
9. Removal of coal ash should include consideration of varied means of transportation including rail, barge, and truck.
10. Environmental Justice communities should be a priority when impacted by coal ash pollution and should be defined to include neighborhoods or subdivisions near coal ash impoundments and not just evaluated on an entire city-wide definition or larger scale.
11. IEPA should provide a high level of transparency through this process with closure plans, cleanup plans and other permit documents available through web links on IEPA notices.
12. Public hearings should be held in the closest possible community to the coal ash impoundment/s.

For more information contact Heart of Illinois Group Sierra Club 309-678-1011 / see our website