

**From:** Philip Hult <pyrobison@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 30, 2014 2:15 PM  
**To:** Therriault, John  
**Subject:** RE: R14-10: Needed: Coal Ash Rules that Protect Public Health and the Environment  
**Attachments:** GailSnowdon\_dynergy\_01.jpg; GailSnowdon\_dynergy\_02.jpg; GailSnowdon\_dynergy\_03.jpg; GailSnowdon\_dynergy\_04.jpg; GailSnowdon\_dynergy\_05.jpg; GailSnowdon\_dynergy\_06.jpg; GailSnowdon\_dynergy\_01.jpg; GailSnowdon\_dynergy\_02.jpg; GailSnowdon\_dynergy\_03.jpg

I recently had the opportunity to speak to Governor Pat Quinn and Director of Natural Resources Marc Miller about my concerns for the Middlefork River in Vermilion County. I love to canoe and kayak and try to go down the Middlefork several times each year. On my most recent trip down the Middlefork last Sunday June 22, 2014 it was distressing to see the worsening problems of erosion of the banks of the Dynegy ash ponds that are in the floodplain right next to the river. My partner in the canoe, Gail Snowdon, had her camera with her and took the photos I have attached to this email. They show the erosion of the bank of the ash pond and also the seepage (both reddish and bluish in color) that is coming through the dam and running down into the river. We observed areas where what appeared to be landscape fabric was torn and hanging in the air from the eroded bank, chicken wire baskets that had been filled with rocks that had been washed away and sections where the wall of the dam had sloughed off. Obviously it is in the beginning stage of failure and I would hate to see a catastrophe happen such as occurred on the Dan River in North Carolina. Please do all that you can to get these ash ponds cleaned up and out of the floodplain.

Coal combustion produces dangerous coal ash waste that contains mercury, arsenic, lead and other health-threatening pollutants that are leaching into our water supplies. I do not know what is leaching through the ash pond dam into the Middlefork River but it obviously is not contained. It is polluting the river. These deadly pollutants increase severe health risks including cancer, neurological disorders, birth defects, reproductive failure, asthma and other serious illnesses.

We need to strengthen the proposed coal ash regulations in the following areas.

**Surface water Contamination:**

- The draft rules do not require that threats to surface water such as the failing Dynegy ash ponds along the Middlefork River be assessed and as such leave downstream waterways vulnerable to toxic pollution. The rules must protect surface waters from contamination. This is an absolute MUST if the ash ponds are in a floodplain which these are.
- Complete removal of waste should be emphasized as the best closure strategy. Where ashponds were erroneously placed in floodplains, removal is the only remedy to prevent contamination of the River. Otherwise it is inevitable that this ashpond along the Middlefork River will fail.

**Groundwater Contamination:**

- Impoundments causing groundwater pollution must be closed by a set date to fully protect the environment and human health.
- Complete removal of waste should be emphasized as the best closure strategy.

**Public Participation and Notice:**

- Citizens should have the right to be informed and participate in decisions regarding coal combustion waste in their communities.
- The rules must give the public ample time (60 days) to comment meaningfully on any facility's plan and allow the IEPA to hold a public meeting on the plan where there is significant interest.

**Financial Burden:**

- The weight of coal ash problems is a tremendous burden that communities should not have to bear. The rules should require power companies to provide financial assurances for the coal ash pits at all operating and retired power plants.

I urge you to please stand up for the health and safety of Illinois families by strengthening the IEPA's proposed rules on coal combustion waste at power plants in Illinois. These are needed to prevent inevitable and costly catastrophes especially in cases such as the Dynegy ashponds along the Middlefork River.

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