

From: [Horton, Vanessa](#)
To: [Brown, Don](#)
Subject: FW: [External] Public comment about upcoming First Hearing in Sangamo Room
Date: Monday, July 6, 2020 9:04:16 AM

Mr. Clerk,

Please file the email below as a public comment in docket R20-19.

Thank you,

Vanessa Horton

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From: Randy Juras <rcjuras@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, July 5, 2020 9:04 PM
To: Horton, Vanessa <Vanessa.Horton@Illinois.gov>
Subject: [External] Public comment about upcoming First Hearing in Sangamo Room

Vanessa,

Back in the Fall of 2019 I attended, and spoke, at the Listening session held at Weitendorf Agricultural Education Center at 17840 West Laraway Rd in Joliet. And while I had fully intended to attend all of the follow-up meetings, such as the upcoming First Hearing, COVID-19 has changed all that. As a at risk person, I find I can not actually attend these meetings. And for me, using Zoom or other electronic conferencing means is not acceptable.

From information I have, this First Hearing is titled "Merit and Economics". And the primary testimony will be from the IEPA.

Having read all of the SB0009 legislation that was passed, I have a number of issues I would like to express. But first of all, I have to explain that as a resident of Lockport now, I have direct concerns regarding local power plant activity. I am talking about Will County Station in Romeoville. The Midwest generation plant located on 135th street.

On that property they have four ponds. Pond 1 North, Pond 1 South, Pond 2 South and Pond 3 South. And all of these ponds are located extremely close to the Des Plaines River.

To the best of my knowledge, the types of CCR (coal combustion residual) held in these ponds would be:

Flue gas desulfurization
Fly ash
Bottom ash
Flue gas mercury control
Gasification of fuels such as coal and petroleum coke.

And the typical toxic metals this coal ash generates would be arsenic, Lead, mercury, selenium, chromium and cadmium. None of which is healthy for any living creature.

Yet what I read is that the scope of the rulemaking is to adopt new rules for the construction permit requirements, operating permit requirements, design standards, reporting, financial assurance and closure and post-care requirements. In other words, continue to create and operate ponds. Ponds that we know are environmental hazards.

In reading SB0009, I was not pleased to see that no matter what is decided, the Illinois rules can not be better than the Federal EPA rules! Given that currently the Federal EPA is NOT doing a very good job of actually dealing with toxic coal ash, I was disappointed. If anything, I want to see Illinois rules do the best job possible eliminating these toxic materials from our waterways and landfills! For me, the burning of any coal is not acceptable. And it is to that end that I, as an environmentally responsible resident, am working to totally eliminate fossil fuel power generation.

I wish to add that Illinois has passed regulations about Fracking that do not allow long term pond usage to hold Fracking fluids. Fracking fluids have to be stored in tanks and then "properly" handled as hazardous waste. Why is this same rule not being applied to coal ash?

Currently, coal ash, in many forms, are being dumped in Landfills and in waterways. And in doing this, it is eventually going to find its way into our water supply. It is going to pollute our creeks, streams and wetlands. And none of this is acceptable to any environmentally responsible person.

And finally, I am sure that the fossil fuel industry will be well represented at this hearing. High priced lawyers and their expert witnesses will be there. It is in fact their day job to keep polluting. The likes of Dynegy, MRG and the rest of the fossil burning power generation corporations will be there. Their high priced management teams will talk about the economic ramifications ANY regulations will have on them. But you will possibly also hear from Environmental Law and Policy. Or the Prairie River Networks and the Sierra Club. Possibly from a few of the IEPA scientists. They may share their expert knowledge about exactly what is in coal ash and what it honestly does to our environment and ecology. And it is my hope that their words of wisdom carry a lot of weight with the members of the IPCB.

I have seen the abandoned strip mines that litter Illinois. They are not only ugly, they are polluting our Land. I do not want to see this happen with coal ash. Right now we have a chance to honestly deal with this toxic material. Of which there really are no good ways to recycle it.

I write to you as a concerned resident of Illinois who is willing to stand up and make his thoughts known to people in charge of preserving our environment and ecology.

Kind regards,
Randy Juras
Lockport, Illinois

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

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