

Testimony: Proposed Rules
Standards for the disposal of coal combustion residuals
in surface impoundments
SECOND HEARING: October 1, 2020

I am Eileen Borgia, Champaign, IL, member and advocate with Prairie Rivers Network, Faith in Place, and Sierra Club. Thank you for the opportunity to reiterate what has been stated in previous hearings, and has been stated well by Cathy Cotten this evening.

The fact that the slurry ponds have been sitting and polluting for so many years is a travesty. Shame on Big Coal for shirking its obligations, and shame on the relevant agencies within Illinois for weak in enforcement. The time has come to *get going* within the year 2020, to require removal of coal ash, and continue in 2021 to get it done.

Every delay, every day, is a day too late.

I expect the following actions to begin immediately:

1. Safely remove the complete contents of all coal ash ponds.
2. Provide all workers involved in the removal with effective highquality protective clothing and gear.
3. Monitor for all pollutants (not a selected few) during every groundwater monitoring period.
4. No coal ash is to be left in open piles, or used as filler anywhere.
5. No coal ash ponds are to be closed by means of the industry 'wish' for the "Dump, run and cover with vegetation" model.
6. As firms are sold or transferred, the financial assurance will stay with the site.
7. Transparency and access to all documents must be readily available for public review.
8. Your responsibility is to the citizens of Illinois, NOT to corporate polluters.

You are responsible to the legislators to fulfill the intentions of the law, to design and implement the rules, and to oversee the polluters in the total *removal* (not cover up) of coal ash. This is not only your bureaucratic role, but also your ethical responsibility.

I look forward to knowing that all coal ash has been removed.

Sincerely,

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