

From: [Bullard, Clark W](#)
To: [Brown, Don](#)
Subject: [External] R20-19
Date: Sunday, October 25, 2020 2:27:56 PM

Mr Brown:

Please accept this comment on R20-19. I have canoed past the ash storage ponds at the Vermilion Power Station hundreds of times over the last 50 years. Originally the ponds were actually used for the purpose for which they were designed – temporary storage. After dewatering the ash was used for decades to pave nearby county and township roads. When that practice stopped, they began to fill and were never properly decommissioned.

If the ponds were not in the floodplain, capping might be a reasonable option. But it is not. The river owns its floodplain and the core drilling reveals sand lenses that indicate prior locations of the river channel. Tile drainage of the watershed increased flood intensity far above what it was from the original wet prairie. Climate change is increasing flood intensity even more.

I supported establishment of the IPCB 50 years ago to create a technically competent entity that was directly accountable to the voters, with only the Governor in between. Please do your job and force the industry to REMOVE all coal ash from floodplains while they still have stockholders and operating power plants, BEFORE the fossil fuel era ends and leaves taxpayers stuck with the bill. IPCB was not created to sit there until the owners file bankruptcy and leave a judge with the task of deciding how to distribute the few remaining assets between pensioners and the environment we leave to future generations of taxpayers.

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