

From: [Kathy Robinson](#)
To: [Brown, Don](#)
Subject: [External] Written Public Comment on Proposed Coal Ash Rules
Date: Monday, October 26, 2020 6:38:35 PM

I am writing in support of stronger rules regulating coal ash storage in Illinois. As we all know, the safe closure of coal ash impoundments is critically important to protecting human health, drinking water, and the environment. Yet the Illinois EPA identified 73 coal ash ponds at dozens of power plants across the state, nearly all of which are next to rivers and lakes. Twenty-two of the 24 coal ash sites tested in Illinois had unsafe concentrations of toxic coal ash pollutants. We need to clean up all the Illinois sites and avoid continued pollution, and this includes the old coal ash fill sites and old coal ash dumps. Cleanup should not be considered "complete" until no coal ash is, or can become, wet. I applaud Illinois EPA's proactive steps in the proposed rules. Specifically, these include:

- 1) More frequent groundwater monitoring than current federal rules require, monitoring for all relevant pollutants during every monitoring period, and monitoring of coal ash fill sites and old coal ash dumps,
- 2) Providing worker protections above and beyond the federal rule,
- 3) Setting no time limit on monitoring--instead, the end of care is tied to results rather than a duration of oversight.

In addition, I urge the Illinois Pollution Control Board to protect the environs of Illinois's only recognized National Scenic River, the Vermilion, by removing the coal ash ponds that are destabilized by natural erosion of the river and could risk a spill that would be detrimental to the river and associated communities. I also support removal and remediation of the ponds near Spaulding Pond in Springfield that are leaching boron and arsenic into the groundwater.

I understand the Coal Ash Pollution Prevention Act provides a regulatory framework to ensure that polluters, not taxpayers, pay for needed closure and cleanup. I support that, and the location restrictions included in the draft bill that prevent placing impoundments above the uppermost aquifer, in wetlands, fault areas, seismic impact zones, and unstable areas..

I supported a change to a graduated tax in Illinois when I voted recently, so I am willing to put my money where my heart is--with our collective betterment now and in the years to come.

Sincerely,
Kathleen Robinson
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