

**From:** [Mary Swiontoniowski](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Don](#)  
**Subject:** [External] Written Public Comment on Proposed Coal Ash Rules  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 27, 2020 8:15:35 AM

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I write to express my concern *now* about how the proposed rules in **The Coal Ash Pollution Prevention Act** don't regulate coal ash strongly enough. The process has also **excluded non-English speaking residents**. How can communities like Waukegan participate fully if the IPCP only provides documents and hearings in English? The final rules should include requirements for both Illinois EPA and industry to **meaningfully engage non-English speaking populations**, including requirements that, if requested, interpreters be present at the meetings, hearings, translation of permit materials. As proposed, there is only one isolated requirement for translating anything in the rule.

Coal ash is a waste byproduct of burning coal, and **contains toxic metals that cause serious health problems**, including cancer. Coal ash is stored on-site at power plants in coal ash impoundments, which are often referred to as coal ash ponds. Coal ash is also stored in landfills or dumped as fill at power plant sites and **elsewhere around the state**.

In addition to coal ash impoundments, many power plants have very old coal ash dumps and coal ash scattered around the plant site as "fill" for construction. **The draft rule covers only coal ash impoundments, but excludes coal ash fill and old coal ash dumps**. This is not enough to protect us.

Sincerely,

Mary Swiontoniowski