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To: [Brown, Don](#)
Subject: [External] Comments on Sub Docket A
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Illinois Pollution Control Board
Comments on Sub Docket A

August 5, 2021

Thank you for your diligence on SB9 and opening Sub Docket A for public comment. I am also grateful that we are moving forward in rulemaking to avoid further harm to the environment and the drinking water of many Illinois communities.

I live in Godfrey Illinois in the Metro East near the shuttered Wood River Power Station and its four ash ponds that sit unlined right next to Wood River Creek and the Mississippi River on a floodplain. I worry that the next flood event could be the one that causes catastrophic environmental impacts to our region's water supply. For this reason, I am asking for strong coal ash rules.

In my life I have lived through the great floods of 1973, 1993 and 2019, along with several other flood events. I have seen firsthand how flooding and its economic and environmental impacts have stressed our region. In order to protect our flood prone communities we need to make sure the final rule requires that coal ash fill that is in contact with groundwater, in a floodplain, or in an unstable area, is moved to a safer place as this is the only way to keep our water safe. If coal ash fill is not removed, groundwater at the fill site must be monitored and, if coal ash pollutants are found at levels exceeding protective standards, the contamination must be cleaned up and further contamination halted.

In addition to the water quality impacts I am also concerned about health-related air quality issues related to fugitive dust from coal ash impoundments. We have very poor air quality in the Metro East with many residents, including several of my family members, suffer from asthma and other chronic respiratory illnesses. For this reason, the rule needs to include fugitive dust monitoring plans for areas neighboring CCR surface impoundments. It is well known that inhaling coal ash dust can be very harmful so limiting dust to safe levels is essential to protect workers and communities near ash ponds. Requiring dust monitors will keep controls effective and keep companies accountable.

Thank you again for this opportunity to comment on the final Coal Ash Rule.

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