

Illinois Pollution Control Board
100 W. Randolph St. Rm 11-512
Chicago, IL

August 6, 2021

Via email: Don.Brown@illinois.gov

RE: IL PCB R2020-19 Sub Docket A Public Comments

To the Illinois Pollution Control Board:

My thanks to the Illinois Pollution Board members for responding to the challenge of how to address concerns related to historic ash dumps, coal ash piles, monitoring coal ash dust, and environmental justice. The work of Illinois Pollution Board is the hope of citizens to get protection from toxic coal ash in their communities. I cannot think of a more critical cause than protection of water resources from threatening and widespread coal ash.

As a resident of Montgomery County, Illinois, I have experienced negative outcomes resulting from Coffeen Power Plant and Deer Run Coal Mine. The area that I live in is very much impacted by the closed Coffeen Power Plant with its 5 coal ash dumps and a 21-acre ash landfill.

Collectively, these dumps store five million cubic yards of coal ash. Ash pond 2 has been capped with clay since the 1980's and contains coal ash to a depth of approximately 28 feet. The groundwater in this area is not healthy or safe.

Coffeen Lake is a popular recreational destination for fishing, boating, and water enjoyment. For several years, the mercury content of the fish has been too high for consumption by children or pregnant women. The seepage from the coal ash dumps adds to the harmful contamination of Coffeen Lake.

The four ash ponds near the lake have been contaminating the groundwater in the area. Dynegey's groundwater monitoring revealed dangerous concentrations of coal ash pollutants. These include cobalt sixty times safe levels, arsenic eleven times, and unsafe levels of boron, cadmium, lead, lithium, and sulfate.

The only sure way of corrective action that would lead to cleaner groundwater is to remove the coal ash instead of capping. The closure plans at Coffeen will not stop contamination of water resources. Hopefully Illinois Pollution Control Board will help protect communities with more stringent regulations.

Thank you for all your work and continued help.

Mary Ellen DeClue
Litchfield, IL

