

From: [Clean Power Lake County](#)
To: [Brown, Don](#)
Subject: [External] Public Comment on AS 2021-003
Date: Thursday, August 26, 2021 6:36:20 PM

Dear Illinois Pollution Control Board,

We are Clean Power Lake County, a grassroots, environmental justice organization based in Waukegan, Illinois, which is an environmental justice community as defined under Part 845 of the Illinois Administrative Code. As explained in our August 6 letter to this Board, groundwater pollution from coal ash storage at Midwest Generation's Waukegan plant continues to pose an urgent threat to our community. We write now to underscore the importance of acting quickly to address this pollution and request that the Board direct the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency ("IEPA") to work expeditiously on, and complete as soon as doable, its recommendation concerning Midwest Generation's petition to exempt the Waukegan plant's "Old Pond"/ "Grassy Field" from compliance with the new coal ash rules.

Midwest Generation has petitioned this Board for an "Adjusted Standard" to the new coal ash rules for its Waukegan plant. On August 18, IEPA requested an additional 90 days to respond to Midwest Generation's petition, which would extend IEPA's recommendation deadline to November. We understand that the change is largely to accommodate Midwest Gen changing their plans on the West and East Ponds, and not other parts of their petition including the Old Pond (what Midwest Gen calls the "grassy field").

Each day that the Waukegan plant's pollution goes unchecked presents a risk to our community. As this Board has previously found, the coal ash stored at the Waukegan plant is causing groundwater pollution. Over a seven-year period, monitoring results at the Waukegan plant indicated 97 exceedances of the Part 620 Class I arsenic standard, 169 exceedances of the Part 620 Class I boron standard, and 57 exceedances of the Class I sulfate standard.

We recognize that there are many demands on IEPA's limited capacity and resources. However, due to the urgency of the threat posed by the Waukegan plant's pollution, we encourage this Board and IEPA to avoid unduly delaying the closure plans for the Waukegan plant. We are concerned that if IEPA does not issue its recommendation until November, then Midwest Generation will seek to avoid complying with the requirement that closure plans be filed by February 1, 2022. The Coal Ash Pollution Prevention Act mandated that coal ash impoundments in areas of environmental justice concern be prioritized, and this would do the opposite.

Therefore, we urge the Board to request that IEPA continue to work expeditiously on its recommendation concerning the Waukegan plant's "Old Pond"/ "Grassy Field," which we understand will not be affected by Midwest Generation's amended petition. We believe that by continuing to work on the aspects of Midwest Generation's petition that will not be amended, IEPA's timeline will be consistent with Part 845's goal of prioritizing coal ash closure and clean up in environmental justice communities, like Waukegan.

Thank you,
Clean Power Lake County

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CLEAN POWER LAKE COUNTY

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This email was sent by Clean Power Lake County, a community-driven coalition committed to local action to secure environmental, economic, and racial justice.

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