

AS-2021-03

Feb. 13, 2024

To the members of the Illinois Pollution Control Board:

I was relieved when NRG finally shuttered the 100-year-old coal-fired power plant in Waukegan, where I have lived for more than 45 years and raised four children. Over those years I have seen many, many cases of asthma, especially in children, and chronic bronchitis and other diseases associated with burning coal, among my neighbors, community members and in my own family.

And now NRG is trying to walk away and leave a sprawling toxic ash dump on our lakefront. It wants to avoid its responsibility to clean up the poison it has left behind. It wants to evade Illinois Coal Ash Rules and leave the people of Waukegan and Lake County on the hook for remediation AND! at continued risk of harms caused by the ongoing contamination of our groundwater and drinking water, not to mention our soil and air.

Well I say NO! to a free pass for NRG at Waukegan.

On behalf of my fellow community members who have suffered for decades at the hands of the fossil fuel industry, I demand that the Illinois Pollution Control Board hold NRG accountable. I ask that you apply the Illinois Coal Ash Rules to the Old Ash Pond, in line with the most stringent government regulations for monitoring, removal/surface impoundments.

The only way to move beyond the toxic mess on our lakefront is to hold NRG accountable.

The only way to assure a better, healthier life for ourselves and our families across the state of Illinois, is to assure a better healthier life for US ALL, including the people of Waukegan and Lake County.

Thank you.

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