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My name is Peter Bush. My wife, Virginia Stricker, and I live about a half-mile from Lake Michigan near the NRG-Midwest Generation facility (NRG-MG). We are but two voices among many we know who are past sick and tired of NRG-MG's foot dragging and general lack of interest in cleaning up their toxic ash-pond mess on the lakefront.

It doesn't take a groundwater hydrologist or geochemist to understand the facts of the situation: Groundwater flows from higher elevations to lower elevations. Groundwater thus flows through the subsurface of the lakefront toward the lake. Groundwater (and rainfall) leaches all sorts of soluble chemicals from the material it flows through. So it's pretty much of a no brainer to conclude that, if toxic material in the ash ponds is exposed to flowing groundwater, soluble toxins will be carried off by the groundwater and eventually will reach Lake Michigan.

Whether that is happening now and to what extent are beside the point. The point is that, over the long term (decades), it WILL happen unless the toxic material from all three coal ash waste sites of concern is excavated and taken to a permitted landfill.

NRG-MG, owned by Edison Midwest Holdings Company, aka Edison International, is (per Edison International's website) "one of the nation's largest electric utilities." As such, it is likely a multibillion dollar company, a company that has the resources to do what is right and clean up their mess in Waukegan. What the company apparently does not have is a corporate mindset that ranks the common good as highly as shareholder profit. Why the corporate suits don't realize that, over the long term, what's good for the communities they serve is also good for the company is beyond me. But so be it. Because of this, the government agency(s) with the power to make NRG-MW permanently clean up their mess need to do just that.