

Electronic Filing: Received, Clerk's Office 03/22/2024 P.C. # 35

From: [Whitney Richardson](#)
To: [Brown, Don](#)
Cc: Fpettis@cleanpowerlakecounty.org
Subject: [External] Public Comment: AS 2021-03: Adjusted Standard for the Waukegan Station
Date: Friday, March 22, 2024 8:01:54 AM

Hi Don,

I'm writing today as a resident of Lake County to communicate my concerns about the coal ash pollution we know is impacting the quality groundwater in our backyard and the health of LC residents and the surrounding environment.

Millions in the region rely on Lake Michigan for drinking water. We are living in a time of increasing fresh water scarcity and cannot afford to contaminate this precious resource. Lax or minimal regulations signal to polluters that it's okay to keep polluting until there is no safe drinking water left.

Polluters must be made and held responsible for cleaning up their messes, NOT innocent and impacted taxpayers. We know the unlined Grass Field and Old Ash Pond are leaching into groundwater. Groundwater moves, so contaminated groundwater simply infects nearby groundwater, over time spreading that contamination over a wider area. This is unacceptable and NRG Energy must clean up these messes and not leave unaware and vulnerable taxpayers to foot the bill and residents paying the cost with their health.

You must ensure all coal ash pollution is cleaned up to the highest standards. Polluters cannot be permitted to pollute without consequence; they must stop passing off those consequences to those who have not caused these problems in the first place.

Sincerely,

Whitney P. Richardson

Vernon Hills, IL 60061