

Electronic Filing: Received, Clerk's Office 03/26/2024 P.C. # 36

From: [Dylan Blake](#)
To: [Brown, Don](#)
Cc: Fpettis@cleanpowerlakecounty.org
Subject: [External] Public Comment: AS 2021-03: Adjusted Standard for the Waukegan Station
Date: Tuesday, March 26, 2024 2:33:43 PM

Dear Illinois Pollution Control Board,

I am writing in hopes that you would consider ruling that the Illinois' Coal Ash Rules are applicable for NRG's coal ash ponds located on Waukegan's lakefront. The fact that NRG has a history of prioritizing profits over the health and safety of Waukegan residents like myself and the environment has gone on for too long. Leaving this hazardous waste on the shores of Lake Michigan is unacceptable. Coal ash contains contaminants like arsenic, lead, and mercury, which pose serious health risks and threaten the delicate ecosystem of the lake.

Us residents of Waukegan have had to deal with the effects of NRG's pollution for too long. The company must be held accountable for cleaning up their mess. There are a number of reasons why I think this needs to be done. For one, I worry about how these coal ash ponds are contaminating the groundwater and potentially contaminating Lake Michigan, which is the source of drinking water. Another worry of mine is how coal ash can cause health problems for the people of Waukegan, who enjoy going to the lakefront for recreation or live nearby. Finally, there is the impact the presence of the coal ash ponds have by hindering new development and discouraging people from visiting and enjoying the lakefront.

Sincerely,

Dylan Blake

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