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**From:** [MARY BLAKE](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Don](#)  
**Cc:** [Fpettis@cleanpowerlakecounty.org](mailto:Fpettis@cleanpowerlakecounty.org)  
**Subject:** [External] Public Comment: AS 2021-03: Adjusted Standard for the Waukegan Station  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 27, 2024 11:14:57 AM

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Dear Illinois Pollution Control Board (IPCB),

I am a longtime resident of Waukegan, and I am writing to express my deep concern about NRG Energy's refusal to remove the coal ash from our precious lakefront. I have lived near the lake for most of my life and have enjoyed many beach days swimming or walking by the lake with my children and grandchildren. I am very concerned that the proposed solution of capping the coal ash ponds is too much of a gamble to prevent toxins from threatening the water. I worry that I will no longer be able to enjoy our beautiful beach area without concerns for our health and well being.

For years, this toxic waste has sat there, a constant threat to our health and environment. The potential contamination of Lake Michigan, a source of drinking water for millions, is simply unacceptable. We deserve a permanent solution that removes the hazard, not simply caps it. I urge the IPCB to take decisive action and require NRG to fully remediate the site by removing all of the coal ash.

The time for excuses is over. It is time for NRG to take full responsibility for the legacy of the coal plant on the shores of Michigan in Waukegan. The burden of pollution should not fall to our Waukegan community.

Sincerely,  
Mary Jo Blake  
509 N Genesee  
Waukegan ,IL 60085