

Therriault, John

PCH 3025

From: Sierra Club <jennifer.hensley@sierraclub.org> on behalf of Joanna Beaumont <sierra@sierraclub.org>
Sent: Tuesday, September 23, 2014 12:28 PM
To: Therriault, John
Subject: R14-10: We Need Coal Ash Rules that Protect Public Health and the Environment:

Sep 23, 2014

Clerk of the IPCB John Therriault

Dear Clerk of the IPCB Therriault,

Coal combustion produces dangerous coal ash waste that contains mercury, arsenic, lead and other health-threatening pollutants that are leaching into our water supplies. These deadly pollutants increase severe health risks including cancer, neurological disorders, birth defects, reproductive failure, asthma and other serious illnesses. We need the proposed rules for regulation coal combustion in Illinois waste to be strengthened!

Rules governing coal ash pits must include key protections!

Groundwater Contamination:

- Impoundments causing groundwater impairment must be closed by a set date to fully protect the environment and human health.
- Complete removal of waste should be considered as the presumptive closure strategy.

Surface water Contamination:

- The draft rules do not require that threats to surface water be assessed and as such leave downstream waterways vulnerable to toxic pollutants. The rules must protect surface waters from contamination.

Public Participation and Notice:

- Citizens should have the right to be informed and participate in decisions regarding what is to be done with coal combustion waste in their communities.
- The rules must give the public ample time (60 days) to comment meaningfully on any facility's plan and allow the IEPA to hold a public meeting on the plan where there is significant interest.

Financial Burden:

- The weight of coal ash problems is a tremendous burden that communities should not have to bear. The rules should require power companies to provide financial assurances for the coal ash pits at all operating and retired power plants.

I urge you to please stand up for the health and safety of Illinois families by strengthening the IEPA's proposed rules on coal combustion waste at power plants in Illinois!

Sincerely,

Joanna Beaumont
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