

Therriault, John

From: ejc@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Lan Richart <ejc@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Friday, July 22, 2016 8:12 PM
To: Therriault, John
Subject: Adopt strong coal ash rules that require coal-fired power companies to clean up their mess

Dear Clerk John Therriault,

PC#4088

I am writing to ask you to move forward with comprehensive coal ash impoundment clean-up and closure rules that will permanently protect Illinois residents from the health, safety and economic risks associated with coal ash disposal.

Many of the over 91 coal ash impoundments in Illinois are unlined and leaking into groundwater and surface waters. Coal ash pollutants such as lead, mercury, arsenic, cadmium and other heavy metals can cause cancers and neurological damage in humans, and are harmful to fish and wildlife.

Coal ash pollution is a state-wide problem that needs to be addressed immediately. However, the rules currently being proposed by the Illinois EPA fall short in several key areas. As the IEPA and the IPCB move forward in the rule-making process, I ask that these deficiencies be addressed:

(1) Public Involvement - Meaningful public involvement should be incorporated into the process of developing site closure plans. Communities with coal ash pits deserve to have input into any decision-making that will have long-term health and safety implications for their residents.

(2) Full Analysis of Closure Alternatives - In evaluating site closure plans, a full assessment should be conducted comparing the risks associated with the "cap and leave" options versus the long-term health and safety benefits of moving coal ash to high and dry, properly lined locations.

(3) Financial Guarantees - Corporate owners of coal ash pits must be held financially responsible for proper clean-up, closure, and long-term maintenance. It is essential that financial assurance mechanisms be incorporated into the rules so that these costs are not passed on to Illinois taxpayers.

I call on the Illinois Pollution Control Board to move forward expeditiously in support of stronger state rules that will incorporate these important measures.

Sincerely,
Lan Richart
919 W University Ave
Champaign, IL 61821-3319