

Virginia Woulfe-Beile
616 E 16th St
Alton, IL 62002

February 23, 2016

Illinois Pollution Control Board
Attn: John Therriault, Clerk
Illinois Pollution Control Board
James R. Thompson Center
100 West Randolph Street, Suite 11-500
Chicago, IL 60601



RE: R14-10; COAL COMBUSTION WASTE (CCW) ASH PONDS AND SURFACE IMPOUNDMENTS AT POWER GENERATING FACILITIES: PROPOSED NEW 35 ILL. ADM. CODE 841

Dear Mr. Therriault,

I'm a resident living near the Wood River Power Station at 1 Chesson Lane, Alton, IL 62002. Dynegy Midwest Generation, LLC has posted a notice to close West Ash Pond 2W.

I'm concerned about the serious public health hazard and environmental threat to my community from the coal ash ponds at the site. Coal ash is a byproduct of coal combustion and contains high levels of harmful heavy metals such as arsenic, lead, selenium, and many more. Stored in ash pits, coal ash is known to leach into streams, rivers, lakes and groundwater.

I feel a greater sense of urgency in light of the recent historic New Year's Flooding in our region. My sense of security for both my family and me wavered every time I drove by the Dynegy site and witnessed the rising waters lapping at the earthen levee that separates the ponds and Wood River Creek which leads directly to the Mississippi River.


Dynegy's initial closure plan for West Ash Pond 2W says that the ash pond will be dewatered, filled with dry coal combustion residuals (CCR) from Pond 1 at the site, and closed in-place. Groundwater quality has already been impacted at this location and will likely continue to be impacted by CCR in the pond. I am also concerned that the stormwater runoff discharged through the existing NPDES permitted outfall will pollute Wood River Creek and the Mississippi River even after the pond has been closed.

The Illinois rules for closure would require compliance with Illinois groundwater and surface water quality standards, a protection that the federal rules lack. These requirements are needed to protect the water supplies for residents in the area and aquatic life.

The state rule is also an important opportunity to include financial assurances, as recommended by the Illinois Attorney General's office. We need these assurance so that my community and the state isn't left to cover cleanup and closure costs.

Please implement the Illinois rules as quickly as possible so that my family and community is protected from inadequate closure plans for the coal ash pits at Wood River.

Respectfully,



Virginia Wolfe-Beile

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