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Good morning and thank you for the opportunity to speak here today on the importance of strong regulations on coal ash pits.

My name is Joyce Harant and as a resident of Peoria and an environmental advocate, I feel it is critical that the Illinois Pollution Control Board listen to the concerned citizens in this room and strengthen the proposed rules before the board. I fought hard to prevent a high-hazard landfill from being expanded in Peoria and posing a serious threat to my communities' health and the Illinois River and I do not want to see these same waters be damaged by the toxic chemicals present in coal ash. The Edwards power plant is one among several in the area that contains coal ash pits that could contaminate my groundwater. Not only do I care about my health and that of my family and friends, but I have lived along the Illinois River for over 30 years.

I urge the IPCB to strengthen these proposed rules. Our communities need to be protected by closing pits that are causing contamination and to require facilities to provide a guarantee that these problems are not a cost on the community they endanger. Finally, as a member of the public I ask that I be given notice and included in the process of protecting my community from coal ash contamination.

Thank you.

