

February 26, 2014

R14-10
PC#2

Illinois Pollution Control Board
Springfield Public Hearing on the IEPA Proposed Coal Combustion Waste Rules

Dear Members of the Illinois Pollution Control Board,

I live in Peoria Heights, Illinois, which is surrounded by Peoria and is located along the Illinois River. Thank you for holding a public hearing in Springfield on this hugely important issue.

I often see the Ameren/Dynegy Edwards power plant south of Peoria on my trips down Illinois Route 24. You cannot miss the huge mounds of coal ash that are piled there. If the wind is from the east or south, dust can often be seen blowing across the highway from the grey mounds.

I am very concerned about the proximity of the Edwards coal ash pond to the Illinois River. This ash is sitting on river-side bottomlands that easily leach substances to underground water and to the river aquifer. It does not have any liners. We don't know what will happen to this plant and worry that Dynegy will shut it down and claim they have no responsibility for clean-up.

With the recent coal ash spills by the Duke power company in North Carolina, I think it is clear that much, much greater regulations and protections are needed regarding coal ash impoundments.

The proposed IEPA rules do not do enough to protect the environment and the public. They don't prevent further pollution of our rivers and streams. You well know that these coal ash locations are polluting groundwater. The Edwards ash pond can discharge 4 million gallons a day of untreated water to our Illinois River. This is not right.

I urge that these proposed rules be greatly strengthened. As they are, would they prevent a disaster like what just happened in North Carolina? I don't think so. These coal waste locations must be moved from proximity to our rivers and streams. There are a lot of toxic heavy metals in coal ash and coal combustion waste. I am fortunate to be retired but I see people I know facing Parkinson's Disease and other terrible health issues that have been linked to heavy metals. We need to leave a better environment for the next generations. We need really strong regulations on coal ash to deal with the decades of pollution problems and the huge risks these coal ash locations present.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Rudy Habben
3732 N. Monroe
Peoria Heights, IL 61616