

From: E. Jean Smith <jeansmith1931@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 30, 2014 9:09 AM
To: Therriault, John
Subject: RE: R14-10: Moral Obligation for Coal Ash Rules that Protect Public Health and the Environment

As a person of faith, I believe we have a moral obligation to protect public health and the environment.

The current proposed coal ash regulations before you fall short of this obligation. I'm writing to urge you to strengthen these regulations.

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.

As such, we must strengthen the proposed coal ash regulations in the following areas.

Groundwater Contamination:

- Impoundments causing groundwater pollution must be closed by a set date to fully protect the environment and human health.
- Complete removal of waste should be emphasized as the best 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 pollution. 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 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!

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