

Subject: THE ILLINOIS POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD (IPCB) SHOULD IMMEDIATELY ADOPT MORE STRINGENT RULES TO CLEAN UP OUR STATE'S HAZARDOUS COAL COMBUSTION ASH POLLUTION!!

From: © 2013 Email Support Team (dennisnelson987@yahoo.com)

To: dennisnelson987@yahoo.com;

Date: Thursday, September 17, 2015 12:18 PM

PC#3874

To: Jerome D. O'Leary, IPCB Member, and T. Fox, IPCB Hearing Officer, Illinois Pollution Control Board (IPCB), James R. Thompson Center, 100 West Randolph Street, Room 11-512, Chicago, Illinois 60601. Jerome D. O'Leary, IPCB Member, and T. Fox, IPCB Hearing Officer=R2014-010--In the Matter of: Coal Combustion Waste (CCW) Ash Ponds and Surface Impoundments at Coal Power Generating Facilities: Proposed New 35 Ill. Adm. Code 841 (Water). My name is DENNIS R. NELSON. My mailing address is: P.O. Box 4453, Chicago, Illinois 60680-4453. I am one of the original, modern environmental/energy activists ever since around the very first "EARTH DAY Celebration" (Wednesday, April 22, 1970), which was more than 45 years ago. I have a Bachelor of Science (B.S.) Degree in Biology and Environmental Studies from Dana College, Blair, Nebraska 68008. I am a naturalist, and an energy-environmental researcher, writer, speaker, and organizer.

On Thursday, May 8, 2014, I submitted on-line comments: They recommended that the final Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) rules regulating toxic coal ash impoundment ponds must be strengthened to keep this hazardous coal ash out of our state's waterways and groundwater. On Wednesday, May 14, 2014, I presented oral testimony at the IPCB public hearing at the James R. Thompson Center, Chicago, IL, 10 AM: Radioactive thorium and uranium are concentrated in the toxic coal combustion ash waste up to 10 times their original levels found in coal. Tougher IEPA finalized rules would be the 'regulatory drivers' for a technically and economically feasible, inherently cleaner and safer statewide non-fossil-fuel and non-nuclear energy pathway (energy efficiency, co-generation, and renewable sources).

All across "Illinois: The land of Lincoln," our coal-fired power plants are contaminating our rivers, streams, lakes, and groundwater resources with toxic coal combustion ash. All together, our state's coal-fired power stations produce a total of 24 million pounds of this hazardous coal ash each day! (In fact, coal ash contaminants have been found in our groundwater supplies at every single coal plant site studied around our state.) Although the newer federal toxic coal ash rules released last December by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) do offer many improvements, they STILL FALL SHORT of the draft state rules which the IEPA has developed. First off, the federal rules do NOT meet Illinois' groundwater or surface water quality standards. Secondly, the federal rules do NOT address hazardous coal ash waste disposal pits at presently closed-down coal-fired power plants.

Unfortunately, the IEPA recently filed a motion with the IPCB to "stay" the rulemaking proceedings. The IEPA argued that this rulemaking should be "stayed" because of challenges to the newly adopted federal toxic coal ash rules. However, these federal rules are now legally effective in force. Therefore, the State of Illinois does NOT have to wait on the outcomes of those challenges to finalize its own rules. THE ILLINOIS HAZARDOUS COAL COMBUSTION ASH RULES MUST BE IMMEDIATELY FINALIZED AND ADOPTED! THE IPCB SHOULD DECLINE THE IEPA'S REQUEST TO "STAY" THE TOXIC COAL COMBUSTION ASH RULEMAKING PROCEEDINGS!!

R. NELSON

Respectfully submitted, DENNIS

Dennis R. Nelson