

**From:** [Nancy Dietrich](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Don](#)  
**Cc:** [russadr@fastmail.fm](mailto:russadr@fastmail.fm)  
**Subject:** [External] Comments Re: Coal Ash Pollution Prevention Act  
**Date:** Saturday, September 26, 2020 5:56:17 PM

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Dear Mr. Brown,

Below you will find comments pertaining to the Coal Ash Pollution Prevention Act. My husband and I would like these to be added to the public record in regards to the hearings the IL Pollution Control Board & IL EPA are holding about this subject.

Please let me know if there is anything else you need from us.

Thanks,

Nancy Dietrich

Coal ash is one of the most toxic substances known to humankind. According to Physicians for Social Responsibility and EarthJustice, coal ash commonly contains arsenic, lead, mercury, cadmium, chromium, and selenium, which causes cancer & neurological damage in humans, as well as harms & kills fish and wildlife.

Knowing this, how can we even think about allowing coal ash to contaminate any groundwater or waterway in our state? Yet, appallingly, groundwater at 22 of 24 coal ash sites tested in Illinois has unsafe concentrations of toxic coal ash pollutants.

The Illinois Pollution Control Board must do everything possible to ensure that all coal ash sites are permanently cleaned up and not allowed to pollute our groundwater and waterways any longer. We appreciate the Illinois EPA's requirements for more frequent groundwater monitoring than the federal EPA's standards, requiring safe clean-up for workers, and not putting a time limit on monitoring of groundwater. This is a good start, but more needs to be done.

Coal ash must be stored in areas where it is not able to get wet, or threaten any waterways or be able to contaminate any more groundwater in any amount. The requirements for cleaning up groundwater pollution must ensure that coal ash clean-up will not be considered complete until the ash is no longer exposed to water, in order to protect the water we drink.

In addition, we cannot allow any federal rollbacks to weaken rules for clean-up here in Illinois, and the public needs to be informed of all plans, programs and assessments to make sure that clean-up is happening correctly and safely.

In conclusion, the Illinois Pollution Control Board has the opportunity to be on the right side of history, do the right thing, and clean up coal ash for good. Our health is worth the money and effort it will take. Thank you.

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