

From: [Carolyn Trimble](#)
To: [Brown, Don](#)
Subject: [External] Illinois Pollution Control Board testimony
Date: Friday, August 14, 2020 5:18:25 PM

Dear Mr. Brown,

Here is my statement, read Wednesday to the Illinois Pollution Control Board at their hearing on rules and regulations:

Illinois Pollution Control Board

August 13, 2020

When I was ten or eleven and just learning to really clean my own room, I'd think that maybe if I just kept the door closed, or if no one looked under the bed or turned on the lights, the fingerprints and dust would escape notice. My mother quickly taught me otherwise. Hanging up my clothes and making my bed were not enough. Clean meant being able to withstand bright lights and scrutiny from all directions.

Now the energy companies are trying my old tactics. Maybe if they just cover the wet ash containment ponds over, or put a little more dirt where chemicals are leaching out into the clean clear water, it will be good enough. It won't.

Near Danville, the Middlefork is a delightful river to canoe on. Going back after several years of absence we found something new. As we looked at the banks near the take-out point at Kickapoo Park, we were alarmed to see the gaudy colors of chemicals leaching into the river. The coal ash ponds from the Vermilion Power Station are so close to the river that the leachate seeps into Illinois's only National Scenic River, just above a spot where many people still enjoy canoeing, rafting and splashing in the river water.

Capping in place is not a lasting solution. It does not address the pollution of the ground water and thus all streams, rivers, and lakes by what leaches out of the sides and bottom of the pit. Even linings are not designed to last forever, and they don't. Cleanup is not complete until the ash is no longer wet and can't get into the water table water.

We need, and deserve, a permanent solution. Something "guaranteed" to keep coal ash away from our ground water and our air for thirty years means that we have just left the problem for our grandchildren. While it is difficult now to get the energy companies to pay for cleaning up their messes, in thirty years it will be impossible.

Clearly stated Rules and Standards must be set and a clear mechanism for enforcement set out. Permanent disposal of new ash as well as existing ash dumps, ponds, etc., is requisite for protecting the health of all Illinoisans.

Thank you for allowing me to speak.

Carolyn Casady Trimble
404 West Iowa St.
Urbana, Illinois 61801 217-367-6499

Carolyn Casady Trimble
Urbana, IL 61801