

August 7, 2020

Comments

Kay Ahaus to Illinois Pollution Control Board

First Hearing on Rule Making to Govern Coal Ash Pollution Prevention Act

Kay Ahaus

200 Rinderer Rd., Trenton, IL 62293 618 520 1790 kayahaus@yahoo.com

Coal: the ore that just keeps on giving—pollution, environmental degradation, health crisis in our air, water, and ground. It pains me that my electricity in 2020 comes mainly from Prairie State Energy Coal mine/plant, one of the greatest polluters in Illinois. If you could, I'd ask you to ban the mining and distribution of this vile lode. But, alas, you are tasked to control the slag, the slop, the manure from this product; coal ash.

As a very concerned citizen taxpayer, I want the rich mine/factory owners to pay the price of the mess they made. Tell them to clean up their mess. Write the rules to hold those who pollute to clean up and do it properly. They made their money, now they can keep their ash from destroying communities.

Question facing you is how to write such rules. Here are my suggestions.

1. Prevent further pollution at these coal ash sites. Where such has already occurred, make it imperative that companies clean up these sites in the safest manner.
 - a) No wet ash in storage, cleanup, or transport. Enforce with heavy fines, fines that enforce this rule.
 - b) When a plant closes, coal ash cannot be closed in place if it will get wet.
 - c) Ash in ground water must be cleaned up completely. The job is not finished until all ash is removed however long that takes.
 - d) No coal ash contaminated in background wells.
 - e) Rules should regulate ash dumps and fill.
 - f) Protect workers and communities, especially environmental justice and other local communities, from dust during all aspects of cleanup, transport, and site demolition.
 - g) Illinois rules must not be rolled back even if federal rules are rolled back. Keep them as strict as possible.
 - h) Constant ground water monitoring required with no time limits on a pond closed in place.
 - i) Provide for public comment at all stages of the rule making.

Thank you for taking my comments. Kay Ahaus

Kay Ahaus