

From: [Deborah SIEBERS](#)
To: [Brown, Don](#)
Subject: [SUSPICIOUS MESSAGE] [External] Coal Ash Rulemaking Comments
Date: Tuesday, October 20, 2020 4:27:17 PM

My name is Debbie Siebers. I am a member of the Catholic Diocese of Joliet's Laudato Si' Ministry Committee (the diocesan environmental ministry), and am retired from the U.S. EPA. I support strong rules for coal ash in Illinois that protect human and environmental health. Strong measures need to be put into place to prevent coal ash contaminants from leaching into groundwater or getting into the air.

Illinois should set high standards for protection from coal ash pollutants, higher than protections set at the federal level, as federal protections are in danger of rollback. We need to have clear and comprehensive rules to protect the public from the toxic effects of coal ash leached into groundwater or carried by the wind. Coal ash must be effectively contained. Coal ash, wherever it is stored, must not be allowed to get wet, either now or in the future. In addition, coal ash currently located in landfills or dumps should not be excluded from these rules. Where coal ash has already contaminated land and water, we must stop further contamination, and clean up any pollution that has already occurred. Groundwater cleanup should not be considered complete until coal ash is no longer exposed to water. Background wells should not be allowed to be installed in areas already contaminated with coal ash.

Any remediation measures must insure worker and community safety, and the safe transportation of any coal ash removed and relocated during cleanup.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on these rules.

Sincerely,
Debbie Siebers
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