

From: [Clean Power Lake County](#)
To: [Brown, Don](#)
Subject: [External] Comment on Sub Docket A
Date: Friday, August 6, 2021 5:05:58 PM

Dear Illinois Pollution Control Board,

We are Clean Power Lake County, a grassroots, environmental justice organization based in Waukegan, Illinois. We have a coal plant right on Lake Michigan, just yards away from our municipal beach where our community goes to fish and swim. The coal ash ponds and former slag and fly ash storage area next to the coal plant not only threaten our beaches and wildlife, but our drinking water as well, making it critical that these sites be cleaned up as soon as possible.

We live on the largest freshwater source in the world, yet our drinking water is still not safe. The board has previously found that the former slag and fly ash storage area is causing groundwater pollution (Sierra Club v. Midwest Generation, PCB No. 13-15, Interim Order, at 66-68). Monitoring results in the case indicated 97 exceedances of the Part 620 Class I arsenic standard, 169 exceedances of the Part 620 Class I boron standard, and 57 exceedances of the Class I sulfate standard during a seven year period. Waukegan is an immigrant, working-class, primarily latinx community that is already overburdened with environmental pollution from 5 EPA superfund sites, a diesel bus garage, an ethylene oxide facility, and a legacy of dirty industry. Proper and rapid cleanup of the former slag and fly ash storage area through removal is crucial for our health and our children's health, whether as an impoundment or, if the Board disagrees it is an impoundment, through strong rules on fill.

Additionally, as the coal ash in our community is located in a densely populated area, we need fugitive dust monitoring at our control ash ponds, any transfer points where coal ash dust will be exposed to the elements, and final disposal or reuse areas. Inhaling coal ash is devastating for one's health, especially considering that one in three children in Waukegan have asthma or asthma-like symptoms. Dust monitors are a key safeguard to ensure controls are effective. Yet, dust monitors are not effective if we do not have access to the results, necessitating adequate reporting requirements to provide accountability for facilities and to ensure any air pollution is addressed in a timely manner.

Thank you for taking this issue on. For the sake of our community and communities like ours, we urge the board to move this process forward in a timely manner.

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CLEAN POWER LAKE COUNTY

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This email was sent by Clean Power Lake County, a community-driven coalition committed to local action to secure environmental, economic, and racial justice.

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