

From: [Laura Basanta](#)
To: [Brown, Don](#)
Subject: [External] Public comment on Case # AS 2021-006
Date: Thursday, June 12, 2025 7:23:35 AM

Dear Sir or Madam,

The Illinois Pollution Control Board should not exempt the 8 coal ash ponds of Southern Illinois Power Cooperative from Illinois' coal ash rules. These rules provide for the safe operation and closure of coal ash ponds to keep citizens and the environment safe. These are laws/rules that we have fought to have the legislature pass for the health and safety of our citizens.

The board MUST force the SIPC to comply with the Illinois coal ash rules before more toxic metals and minerals leach into the ground water. SIPC's own monitoring shows that its coal ash ponds are polluting groundwater with antimony, arsenic, beryllium, boron, cadmium, chloride, cobalt, lead, sulfate, thallium, and total dissolved solids.

This toxic stew is NOT what people want to drink or recreate in. Do you want to make tea or go swimming in Lake of Egypt knowing that you are ingesting these toxins either orally or through your skin? I don't think so, neither do I.

Since 2021, the SIPC has been avoiding the clean up and closure of these ponds, even though it has been recommended by the IEPA. Now is the time when our national EPA is getting defunded/destroyed, we in Illinois have the power (of the people) to address this polluting industry to clean itself up for our citizens with the laws of our state. Now is the time to expect compliance by industry to follow the rule of law.

Vote to make SIPC comply with the rules of coal ash clean up. Make it right for our citizens.

Thank you,

Laura Basanta