Public Comment in PCB 2018-011

My husband and I have been CWLP ratepayers for 47 years, and our highest priority is the health and safety of the community. The utility's plan to cap and monitor the coal ash sites does not adequately protect community members from toxic heavy metals and chemicals, including arsenic and mercury, from leaching into the soil and even into groundwater and our drinking water. Flooding and other severe weather can cause spills from coal ash pits, contaminating the water and land around them with heavy metals and other toxins. The sinking of coal ash into lakes and other bodies of waters has the most adverse impact on bottom-dwelling aquatic animals, including fish, mussels, amphibians, and reptiles. As prey for native species and catches for local fishermen, contamination at the bottom level can move up the food-chain, possibly causing long-term dietary toxicity for any species involved. After spills or leaching, the presence of metals and chemicals such as arsenic, radium, lead, selenium and beryllium directly endangers the health of clean-up workers, who in some cases have suffered lung disease and various cancers. The coal ash should be removed from unlined, wet storage ponds and relocated into dry, modern landfills with composite liners. Thank you for this opportunity to comment on this matter.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Allen