

Dr. Sylvia Romero

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I'm here today to seek environmental justice for the systemic inequities caused by the groundwater pollution at the Waukegan Station to our community of Waukegan, which is predominantly composed of Latino, immigrant, black, and people of color.

The coal plant and NRG Energy have a long history of contamination. Waukegan Station has been one of the worst environmental justice offenders in the nation. Current groundwater monitoring at the Old Ash Pond fails to meet the requirements of the Illinois Coal Ash Rules. The Old Ash Pond is polluting the groundwater on the Waukegan lakefront. **NRG MUST COMPLY WITH THE Illinois Coal Ash Rules at Waukegan; ALL the coal ash must be regulated and removed.** Existing monitoring has shown that the following pollutants exceed Illinois Coal Ash Rule standards:

Boron (developmental risks, low birth weight)

Sulfate (irritate eyes, skin and lungs, causes cancer in laboratory animals)

Chromium (can harm the liver and blood, cause stomach cancer)

Thallium (reproductive and developmental risks)

Lead (neurological damage, probable carcinogen)

Arsenic (cancers, neurological damage)

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