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From: [Jane Cogie](#)
To: [Brown, Don](#)
Subject: [External] Public comment on Case # AS 2021-006
Date: Friday, June 27, 2025 9:20:28 PM

Dear Don Brown,

I hereby submit my comment to you as the Clerk of the Board on Case # AS 2021-006:

As a resident of southern Illinois who values the health of folks in our region and the health of the local resources we and others depend on and enjoy, I am writing to ask the Illinois Pollution Control Board to deny Southern Illinois Power Cooperative's request to exempt eight of its coal ash ponds from Illinois' Coal Ash rules, finalized in 2021. Our state's Coal Ash Rules must apply here. Indeed, SIPC needs to be held to the standards set:

- > retrofit **or** close these coal ash ponds
- > monitor them for groundwater contamination
- > clean up contamination when found; and also ensure the "public has a voice in the closure and clean-up process."

SIPC has argued that these coal ash ponds should be exempt because some of them have already closed and because the amount of coal ash they hold qualifies as "de minimus." Yet IEPA findings have called these arguments into question:

- > None of the coal ash ponds have closed, as SIPC has claimed

- > All of them have been assessed as holding a significant amount of coal ash

- > A report by SIPC itself cites these ponds as contaminating groundwater with toxic pollution, including arsenic, boron, and cadmium.

I cite these facts here, though I believe that they are already part of the record, because they make clear the certainty of harm to public health that would result, should SIPC's eight ponds be granted an exemption.

Contamination of any water source from toxic coal ash should not be permitted. But Lake of Egypt, with SIPC's power plant located on its shores, serves as a public water source and is a destination for family outings and tourism. Families have a right to know if their drinking water or lakes where their children swim are toxic and harmful to their health.

If these eight ponds are exempted from Illinois coal ash rules, not only will the public be denied a voice in the closure and clean-up of ground water contamination (which the Coal Ash Rules require) but they won't even know of the toxins in the water they swim in and drink every day. Also leakage from these eight ponds also endangers water sources beyond Lake of Egypt, the water of the folks with their own wells.

Thank you for this chance to weigh in on this important matter. And, again, I urge the Board to deny SIPC's petition for an exemption to the Illinois Coal Ash rules.

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Jane Cogie
Carbondale, IL 62901