New Mexico and Coal Ash Disposal in Ponds and Landfills

Summary:[1]

Plant	Operator	Site	County
Escalante Power Station	Tri-State G&T Association, Inc.	4 ponds/landfill*	McKinley
Four Corners Power Station (AZPS)	Arizona Public Service	5 ponds	San Juan
San Juan (PNM)	Public Service Co. of New Mexico	data indeterminate	San Juan

*indicates one or more coal ash landfills.

Amount of coal ash generated per year: Over 3.6 million tons. NM ranks 10th in the country for coal ash generation.[2]

The U.S. EPA has not yet gathered information on coal ash disposal in landfills, so a detailed breakdown is not yet available.

Information on New Mexico Coal Ash in Ponds
Number of Coal Ash Ponds: 9 ponds at 2 plants.[3]

Pond Ratings: Three ponds rated as "significant hazard."[4]

Age of Ponds: One pond is 30 years old and 5 are 25 years old.[5] The age of these ponds makes it unlikely that they have safeguards like liners and leachate collection systems.

Capacity and releases: The 9 ponds in NM cover an area of 165 acres.[6] According to the EPA surface impoundment database, the 4 ponds in NM for which EPA has storage capacity data (all at the Four Corners Power Station) can store up to 4.5 million cubic yards of coal ash.[7] The EPA database does not mention any releases at ponds in NM.

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[1] United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA). Database of coal combustion waste surface impoundments (2009). Information collected by EPA from industry responses to Information Collection Request letters issued to the companies on March 9, 2009.

[2] U.S. EPA and United States Department of Energy (U.S. DOE). *Coal Combustion Waste Management at Landfills and Surface Impoundments*, *1994-2004* (August 2006).

[3] U.S. EPA. Database of coal combustion waste surface impoundments (2009).

[4] *Id.*

[5] *Id.*

[6] *Id.*

[7] *Id.*