

West Virginia and Coal Ash Disposal in Ponds and Landfills

Summary:¹

Plant	Operator	Site	County
John E. Amos Power Station	Appalachian Power Co.	2 ponds/landfill*	Putnam
Kanawha River Power Station	Appalachian Power Co.	1 pond/landfill*	Kanawha
Mountaineer Power Station	Appalachian Power Co.	1 pond/landfill*	Mason
Philip Sporn Power Station	Appalachian Power Co.	2 ponds/landfill*	Mason
Mitchell Power Plant	Ohio Power Co.	2 ponds	Marshall
Pleasants Power Station	Allegheny Energy Supply Co. LLC	1 pond/landfill*	Pleasants
Harrison Power Station	Allegheny Energy Supply Co. LLC	landfill*	Harrison
Mount Storm (VIEP)	Dominion Virginia Power	landfill*	Grant
Fort Martin Power Station (MONG)	Monongahela Power Co.	landfill*	Monongalia
Kammer	Ohio Power Co.	data indeterminate	Marshall
PPG Natrium Plant	PPG Industries Inc.	landfill*	Marshall
Albright	Monongahela Power Co.	landfill*	Preston
Willow Island	Monongahela Power Co.	landfill*	Pleasants
Rivesville	Monongahela Power Co.	landfill*	Marion

*indicates one or more coal ash landfills.²

Amount of coal ash generated per year: Over 7.2 million tons. WV ranks 5th in the country for coal ash generation.³

The U.S. EPA has not yet gathered information on coal ash landfills, so a detailed breakdown is not yet available. However, according to a 2007 EPA risk assessment, five surface impoundments and landfills in West Virginia are unlined, and two are only clay-lined. Of these sites, four do not have a leachate collection system in place, and three have no groundwater monitoring.⁴

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. Department of Energy's Energy Information Administration, Form EIA-767, Annual Steam-Electric Plant Operation and Design Data. 2005.

³ 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).

⁴ RTI International. *Human and Ecological Risk Assessment of Coal Combustion Wastes, Draft* (August 6, 2007), prepared for the US Environmental Protection Agency.

Information on West Virginia Coal Ash Ponds

Number of Coal Ash Ponds: 9 ponds at 6 plants. There also appears to be a retired pond at the Kammer Power Plant in Moundsville.⁵

Pond Ratings: Four ponds rated “high hazard.” Four other ponds rated “significant hazard.”⁶

Age of Ponds: Eight ponds are over 30 years old and one is over 29 years old.⁷ The age of these ponds makes it unlikely that they have safeguards like liners and leachate collection systems.

Capacity and releases: According to the EPA surface impoundment database, the 9 ponds in West Virginia have the capacity to store approximately 31.5 million cubic yards of coal ash and cover an area of 622 acres. The EPA database does not note any releases at the ponds, but the two coal ash ponds at the Philip Sporn Power Station in New Haven have required corrective action due to dike erosion.

⁵ U.S. EPA. Database of coal combustion waste surface impoundments (2009).

⁶ *Id.*

⁷ *Id.*