



## Illinois and the Threat to Public Health from Coal Ash Disposal

Summary of Coal Ash Ponds at Illinois Power Plants:<sup>1</sup>

IEPA Priority for  
Groundwater  
Contamination

Plant	Operator	City/County	IEPA Priority for Groundwater Contamination
Havana Power Station	Dynegy Midwest Gen Inc.	Havana/Mason	
Hutsonville Power Station	Ameren Energy Resources	Hutsonville	
Lakeside Power Station	City of Springfield CWLP	Springfield	Priority 2
Hennepin Power Station	Dynegy Inc.	Hennepin/Putnam	
Vermilion Power Station	Dynegy Inc.	Oakwood/Vermillion	
Wood River Power Station	Dynegy Inc.	Alton/Madison	
Duck Creek Power Station	Ameren Energy Resources	Canton/Fulton	
E.D. Edwards Power Station	Ameren Energy Resources	Bartonville/Peoria	Priority 1
Meredosia Power Station	Ameren Energy Resources	Meredosia/Morgan	Priority 1
Newton Power Station	Ameren Energy Resources	Newton, Jasper	Priority 2
Dallman Power Station	City of Springfield	Springfield/Sangamon	
Baldwin Energy Complex	Dynegy Inc.	Baldwin/Randolph	Priority 1
Marion (SPIC)	Southern Illinois Power Co-op	Marion/Williamson	
Powerton Generating Station	Midwest Generation	Pekin/ Tazewell	Priority 1
Coffeen Generating Station	Ameren Energy Resources	Coffeen/ Montgomery	
Joppa Steam Generating Station	Electric Energy Inc.	Joppa/Massac	Priority 1
Kincaid Generation LLC	Dominion Energy NUGs	Kincaid, Christian	Priority 2
Waukegan (MIDGEN)	Midwest Generation, LLC	Waukegan/Lake	Priority 2
Will County	Midwest Generation, LLC	Romeoville/Will	Priority 1
Joliet 29	Midwest Generation, LLC	Joliet/Will	Priority 1
Crawford (MIDGEN)	Midwest Generation, LLC	Chicago/Cook	Priority 2
Joliet 9	Edison Mission Energy	Joliet, Will	
Grand Tower Power Plant	Ameren Energy	Grand Tower	Priority 1
Venice	Ameren Energy	Venice	Priority 1
Soyland Power Cooperative	Prairie Power, Inc.	Pearl	Priority 1

**Amount of coal ash generated per year in IL:** Over 4.4 million tons. IL ranks 8<sup>th</sup> in the U.S.<sup>2</sup>  
**Coal ash impoundments in Illinois:** 83 ponds at 24 power plants, including 68 active and 15 inactive ponds.<sup>3</sup> Only 31 ponds are lined (37%) and only 28 have groundwater monitoring systems (34%).<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> IL EPA, Illinois EPA's Ash Impoundment Strategy Progress Report, February 24, 2010.

<sup>2</sup> 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).

<sup>3</sup> IL EPA, Illinois EPA's Ash Impoundment Strategy Progress Report, February 24, 2010.

<sup>4</sup> Id.

***Threat of Contamination to Drinking Water Aquifers:*** IEPA considers 10 of the 24 plants to be “priority 1 facilities” because of the high potential for contamination of the water table and/or the presence of drinking water wells near the plants.

***Coal Ash Pond Hazard Ratings:*** Two ponds rated “high hazard.”<sup>5</sup>

***Historical releases from coal ash ponds:*** The Lakeside Plant pond has had seepage problems at its northern embankment, and the fly ash pond at the Meredosia Power Station had a spill in 2006.<sup>6</sup>

***Damage Cases:*** According to the U.S. EPA, coal ash has contaminated water at the following sites:<sup>7</sup>

- *Powerton Plant:* exceedances of cadmium, lead, nitrite, iron, manganese, and sulfate.
- *Duck Creek Station:* exceedances of sulfate, total dissolved solids (TDS), chloride, manganese, and iron in groundwater.
- *Hennepin Power Station:* exceedances of sulfate and TDS in groundwater.
- *Havana Power Plant:* exceedances of manganese in groundwater.
- *Vermillion Power Station:* exceedances of sulfate and TSD in groundwater.
- *Hutsonville Power Station:* exceedances of sulfate and TDS in groundwater.
- *Wood River Power Station:* exceedances of sulfate, TDS, chloride, manganese, and iron.
- *Coffeen/White & Brewer Fly Ash Landfill:* exceedances of sulfate, TDS and manganese in groundwater.

According to IL EPA, groundwater data received in 2010 revealed chemicals above drinking water standards as a result of coal ash disposal at the following eight plants:

- *Lakeside Power Station:* Arsenic (9 times drinking water standard), sulfate, iron, manganese;
- *Joppa Power Station (Priority 1):* lead, sulfate, iron, manganese;
- *Prairie Power Pearl Station (Priority 1):* arsenic, selenium, sulfate, manganese, iron, chloride;
- *Ameren-Meredosia (Priority 1):* arsenic (nearly 15 times drinking water standard), sulfate, manganese;
- *Powerton Station (Priority 1):* arsenic, lead, manganese, iron;
- *Waukegan (MIDGEN):* arsenic, antimony, sulfate, manganese;
- *Venice Plant (Priority 1):* arsenic (over 15 times drinking water standard), manganese; and
- *Joliet 29 (Priority 1):* antimony, sulfate, manganese, chloride.

Additional contaminated sites documented by EIP, Earthjustice and Sierra Club include:<sup>8</sup>

- *Marion Plant, Southern Illinois Power Cooperative, Marion, IL:* Cadmium and iron- contaminated groundwater, and discharges containing high aluminum, boron and manganese to nearby creek.
- *Joliet 9 Generating Station, Joliet, IL:* Boron-contaminated water threatens private wells.
- *Rocky Acres Coal Combustion By-Product Disposal Site, Oakwood, IL:* “Beneficial reuse” site contaminated groundwater with arsenic, barium, lead, iron, manganese, chromium, nickel and iron.

***Deficiencies of Illinois Coal Ash Regulations:*** IL regulations fail to require many of the essential safeguards necessary to protect citizens from contamination by coal ash. IL regulations (1) fail to require groundwater monitoring and composite liners at all new and existing ponds and landfills; (2) fail to prohibit ash ponds from being constructed in the water table; (3) fail to require financial assistance for ponds; and (4) fail to require coal ash dams be regularly inspected by state regulators.

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<sup>5</sup> *Id.*

<sup>6</sup> U.S. EPA. Database of coal combustion waste surface impoundments (2009).

<sup>7</sup> U.S. EPA. *Coal Combustion Waste Damage Case Assessments* (July 9, 2007).

<sup>8</sup> EIP, Earthjustice and Sierra Club Reports, *In Harm's Way* and *Out of Control*, available at [www.earthjustice.org/coalash](http://www.earthjustice.org/coalash).