

Kansas and Coal Ash Disposal in Ponds and Landfills

Summary:¹

Plant	Operator	Facility	County
Riverton Power Station	Empire District Electric Co	1 Pond	Cherokee
Nearman Creek Power Station (KACY)	Kansas City Board of Public Utilities	1 Pond	Wyandotte
LaCygne Generating Station	Kansas City Power & Light Co	2 Ponds/landfill*	Linn
Jeffrey Energy Center	Westar Energy	3 Ponds	Pottawatomie
Lawrence Energy Center (KPL)	Westar Energy	4 Ponds/landfill*	Douglas
Tecumseh Energy Center	Westar Energy	2 Ponds/landfill*	Shawnee
Holcomb	Sunflower Electric Power Corp.	landfill*	Finney
Quindaro	City of Kansas City	data indeterminate	Wyandotte

*indicates one or more coal ash landfills.²

Amount of coal ash generated per year: 1.3 million tons. Kansas ranks 29th in the country for coal ash generation.³

The U.S. EPA has not yet gathered information on coal ash disposal in landfills, so a detailed breakdown is not yet available. However, according to a 2007 EPA risk assessment, the coal ash landfill at the Holcomb power station is unlined and does not have a leachate collection system. Four other surface impoundments and landfills in Kansas are only clay-lined, and none of them have leachate collection systems.⁴

Information on Coal Ash Ponds in Kansas

Number of Coal Ash Ponds: 13 ponds at 6 plants.⁵

Pond Ratings: One pond received a rating of “significant hazard.”⁶

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.

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

⁶ *Id.*

Age of Ponds: 13 ponds are over 20 years old, and 8 of those are over 30 years old.⁷ The age of these ponds makes it unlikely that they have safeguards like liners and leachate collection systems.

Capacity and releases: The EPA surface impoundment database contains storage capacity data for 10 of the 13 ponds in KS. For these sites, coal ash storage capacity is 9,126 acre feet. In July 2007, September 2007 and May 2009 the LaCygne Generating Station reported releases “due to unusual rainfall events.”⁸

⁷ *Id.*

⁸ *Id.*