

Utah and Coal Ash Disposal in Ponds and Landfills

Summary: ¹

Plant	Operator	Site	County
Intermountain Power Project	City of Los Angeles	6 ponds	Millard
Hunter	PacifiCorp-Rocky Mtn.	landfill*	Emery
Huntington	PacifiCorp-Rocky Mtn.	landfill*	Emery
Bonanza	Deseret Generation & Tran Co-op	landfill*	Uintah
Carbon	PacifiCorp-Rocky Mtn.	landfill*	Carbon
Kennecott Utah Copper (KUCC)	Kennecott Utah Copper Corp.	Ponds (total number indeterminate)	Salt Lake

*indicates one or more coal ash landfills.²

Amount of coal ash generated per year: 2.3 million tons. Utah ranks 18th 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, three surface impoundments and landfills at the Huntington, Intermountain and Carbon plants are unlined. There is no leachate collection system at the Intermountain and Carbon plants, and no groundwater monitoring at the Carbon and Huntington plants.⁴

Information on Utah Coal Ash Ponds

Number of Coal Ash Ponds: Six ponds at the Intermountain Power Project.⁵ According to data from the Energy Information Administration, coal ash is stored in ponds at the Kennecott Utah Copper facility, but detailed information about the size, number and capacity of the ponds at this site is not available.⁶

Pond Rating: Five of the six ponds at the Intermountain facility have a “low” hazard rating. The sixth pond has no hazard rating.⁷

Age of Ponds: Five of the ponds at Intermountain were built in 1986. One pond was built in 1983.⁸

¹ U.S. Department of Energy's Energy Information Administration, Form EIA-767, Annual Steam-Electric Plant Operation and Design Data. 2005.

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

⁷ U.S. EPA. Database of coal combustion waste surface impoundments (2009).

⁸ *Id.*

Capacity and releases: Storage capacity for the six ponds at Intermountain is 7,272 acre feet, or 2.3 billion gallons. This is enough coal ash to fill nearly 3,600 Olympic-sized swimming pools.

No historical releases were reported for these Utah coal ash ponds.⁹

⁹ *Id.*