



Coal Ash in Arizona

Coal-Fired Power Plants in Arizonaⁱ

Plant	Operator	Landfill	Pond	County
Apache Station Combustion Waste Disposal Facility	Arizona Electric Power Coop Inc		9	Cochise
Cholla Power Station	Arizona Public Service Co	1	5	Navajo
Navajo (SRP) Power Station	Salt River Project Ag I & P Dist	1	17	Coconino
Coronado Power Station	Salt River Project Ag I & P Dist	1	2	Apache
Springerville Generating Station	Tucson Electric Power Co.	1	24	Apache
H Wilson Sundt Generating Station	Tucson Electric Power Co.		1	Pima
Total:	6	4	58	

How Safe Are Arizona's Coal Ash Dumps?

Plant	Number Of Ponds	Average Age of Ponds/Landfills	Units with Liners*	Units with Leachate Collection Systems	Ponds Rated High or Significant Hazard*
Apache Station Combustion Waste Disposal Facility	9	20 years	9	9	7 high
Cholla Power Station	5	37 years	1	1	2 high
Navajo (SRP) Power Station	17	Unknown	None	None	
Coronado Power Station	2 (1 landfill)	36 years	3	3	1 significant
Springerville Generating Station	24	Unknown	24	15	
H Wilson Sundt Generating Station	2	Unknown	1	None	

*Presence of a "liner" does not mean that it is adequate to prevent contaminants from leaking. Inadequate "liners" may be constructed of soil, ash, clay or single layers. Information is not sufficient to determine liner adequacy.

**Hazard and condition ratings not available for all units.

Amount of Coal Ash Generated per Year in Arizona: Over 2.7 million tons. AZ ranks 14th in the country for coal ash generation.ⁱⁱ

Documented Contamination at Coal Ash Disposal Sites: Coal ash has contaminated groundwater at two sites in AZ. There are likely additional contaminated sites, but the state does not require monitoring so most pollution at coal ash ponds and landfills goes undetected. EPA, however, discovered contaminated groundwater at the following two sites:

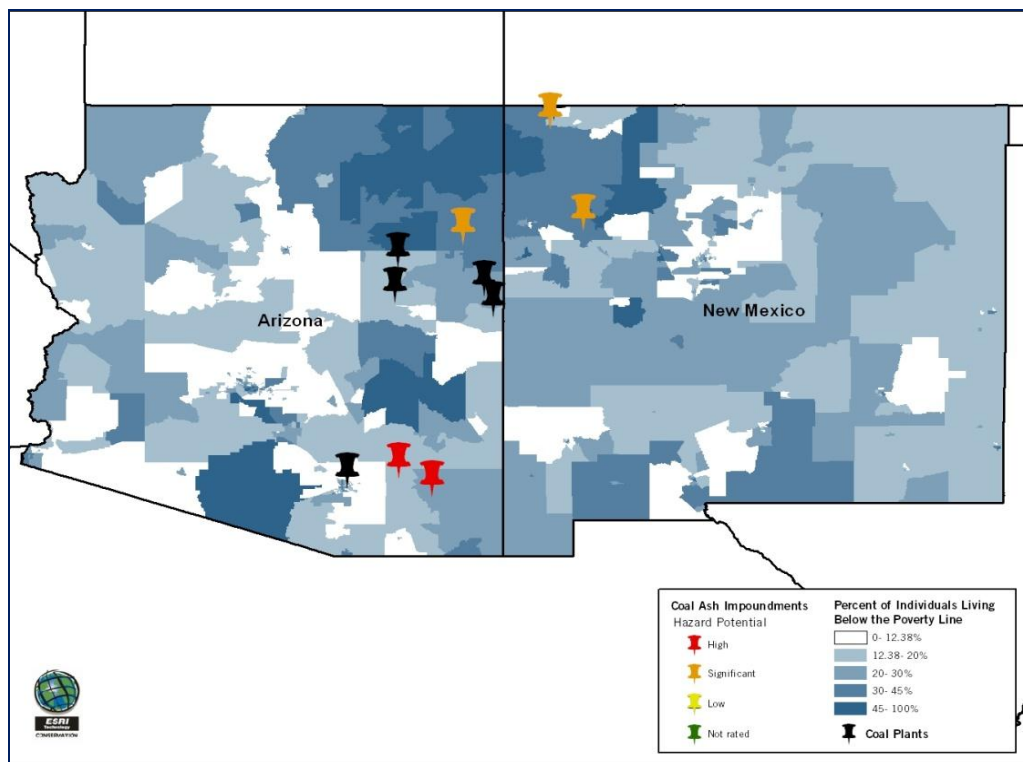
- Cholla Plant, Holbrook: EPA found exceedances of the following contaminants in groundwater: sulfate, total dissolved solids, chloride and fluoride.
- Coronado Generating Station, St. Johns: EPA found exceedances of the following contaminants in groundwater: chromium, total dissolved solids, sulfates & chlorides.

Deficiencies of the Arizona Regulatory Program:

Arizona has one of the worst coal ash programs in the nation. The state, in fact, does not even regulate the disposal of coal ash. Arizona therefore does not require basic disposal safeguards necessary to detect and capture coal ash pollutants and protect human health and the environment. This means that Arizona does not require the installation of liners at coal ash dumps to prevent leaks, fails to require groundwater monitoring to detect leaks when they occur; fails to require the control of toxic fugitive dust, fails to require safe siting of dumps away from the water table; and fails to require financial assurance to ensure utilities can clean up spills and leaks. In addition, Arizona's coal ash dam safety regulations also fail to protect public safety. Despite the presence of 58 coal ash ponds, including nine high hazard ponds, Arizona does not require state inspection of coal ash dams.

Environmental Justice and Coal Ash Landfills and Ponds in Arizona:

Coal ash contamination disproportionately harms Arizona's most vulnerable communities. More than 40 percent of residents near coal ash dumps in Arizona, are non-white, and about 20 percent of residents living near coal ash dumps in Arizona are below the poverty line. This is well above the national average poverty rate of 11.9 percent. The maps shown below paint a picture of economic environmental injustice in Arizona and New Mexico. Any area shown in blue has an above-average poverty rate, and the pushpins represent places where coal ash is produced and/or disposed.



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ⁱ U.S. Department of Energy's Energy Information Administration, Form EIA-767, Annual Steam-Electric Plant Operation and Design Data. 2005, available at <http://www.eia.gov/cneaf/electricity/page/eia767/>; Information Request Responses from Electric Utilities, U.S. ENVT'L PROT. AGENCY (Jan. 13, 2012), <http://www.epa.gov/osw/nonhaz/industrial/special/fossil/surveys/> (follow link to Database Results (XLS)); Data from US EPA Office of Water, Information Collection Request. Data received from US EPA pursuant to FOIA, July 2012.

ⁱⁱ U.S. Department of Energy's Energy Information Administration, Form EIA-767, Annual Steam-Electric Plant Operation and Design Data. 2005, available at <http://www.eia.gov/cneaf/electricity/page/eia767/>.