



Coal Ash in Kentucky

Coal-Fired Power Plants in Kentuckyⁱ

| Plant | Operator | Landfill | Pond | County |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------|-----------|------------|
| Big Sandy Power Station | Kentucky Power Co | 1 | 1 | Lawrence |
| Cane Run Power Station | Louisville Gas & Electric Co. | 2 | 6 | Louisville |
| D B Wilson Power Station | Western Kentucky Energy Corp. | 2 | 2 | Ohio |
| E W Brown Power Station | Kentucky Utilities Co. | | 3 | Mercer |
| East Bend | Duke Energy Kentucky Inc | 1 | 3 | Boone |
| Elmer Smith | Owensboro City of | | 5 | Daviess |
| Ghent | East Kentucky Power Coop Inc | 1 | 4 | Carroll |
| Green River Power Station | Kentucky Utilities Co. | | 4 | Muhlenberg |
| HMP&L Station Two Henderson | Western Kentucky Energy Corp. | | 2 | Henderson |
| Kenneth C Coleman | Western Kentucky Energy Corp. | | 3 | Hancock |
| Paradise | Tennessee Valley Authority | 1 | 10 | Muhlenberg |
| R D Green | Big Rivers Electric Co. | 1 | 7 | Robards |
| Trimble County | Louisville Gas & Electric Co. | 1 | 3 | Trimble |
| Total # of Plants | | 10 | 53 | |

How Safe Are Kentucky's Coal Ash Dumps?

| Plant | Average Age of Ponds/Landfills | Units with Liners* | Units with Leachate Collection Systems | Ponds Rated High or Significant Hazard* | Ponds in Poor Condition* |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------|--|---|--------------------------|
| Big Sandy Power Station | 43 | 1 | 2 | 1 significant, 1 high | |
| Cane Run Power Station | 38 | 2 | 1 | 1 high | |
| D B Wilson Power Station | Unknown | 0 | 0 | | |
| E W Brown Power Station | 30 | 1 | 1 | 2 high | |
| East Bend | 32 | 3 | 1 | 1 significant | 1 |
| Elmer Smith | Unknown | 1 | 0 | | |
| Ghent | 26 | 2 | 3 | 3 high | |
| Green River Power Station | 52 | 0 | 1 | 4 significant | 4 |
| HMP&L Station Two Henderson | Unknown | 0 | 0 | | |
| Kenneth C Coleman | 37 | 0 | 0 | 2 significant | |
| Paradise | 37 | 1 | 2 | | |
| R D Green | Unknown | 0 | 1 | 1 significant | |
| Trimble County | 22 | 4 | 1 | 1 significant | |
| Total | | 15 of 63 (23%) | 13 of 63 (20%) | 11 significant, 7 high | 5 |

*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 Kentucky: Over 9 million tons. KY ranks 5th in the country for coal ash generation.ⁱⁱ

Documented Contamination at Coal Ash Disposal Sites in Kentucky:

- Mill Creek Station, Louisville, KY: Groundwater monitoring data obtained through a Freedom of Information Act request show a history of exceedances of state and/or federal standards for arsenic.^{iiiiv}
- Paradise Fossil Plant, Paradise, KY: Groundwater monitoring data obtained through the EIP shows exceedances of state and/or federal standards for arsenic, boron, manganese, nickel and sulfate.^v
- Spurlock Power Station, Maysville, KY: According to a report published by EIP in 2011, there were multiple known pollutants exceeding state and/or federal standards, including: arsenic, boron, selenium, beryllium, chromium, lead, manganese, molybdenum, nickel and sulfate.
- Shawnee Fossil Plant, West Paducah, KY: In 2007, the EIP found evidence to determine Shawnee Fossil Plant a contaminated site after data showed exceedances of total dissolved solids, iron and sulfate in nearby groundwater.
- LG&E Cane Run Power Plant, KY: In 2013, LG&E agreed to pay \$113,250 to the Louisville Metro Air Pollution Control District and comply with a pollution control plan after blowing ash and odors from the plant's landfill affected residents living near the plant.^{vi} In 2011, LG&E paid \$22,500 for a similar alleged violations involving blowing coal ash.

Deficiencies of the Kentucky Regulatory Program:

State safety regulations for coal ash dams and landfills are inadequate. There are no regular reporting requirements after dam construction, except for certificate renewal every five years. Operators are not given a required inspection frequency and are not required to post a bond to ensure safe operation and maintenance or even completion of dam construction. Finally, Kentucky does not require emergency action planning or inundation mapping, which is astounding given the presence of seven high hazard dams that are likely to take human lives if they break and 11 significant hazard dams that would cause substantial economic and/or environmental damage in the event of failure. In addition, the state does not require composite liners at all ponds and landfills nor does the state prohibit dumping directly into the water table. Lastly, State also does not require groundwater monitoring at all landfills and impoundments.

For more information: contact Lisa Evans, Earthjustice, 781-631-4119, levans@earthjustice.org.

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. ENVTL 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/>.

ⁱⁱⁱ EIP, Earthjustice, Sierra Club. *In Harm's Way: Lack of Federal Coal Ash Regulations Endangers Americans and their Environment*, August 26, 2010, available at <http://earthjustice.org/sites/default/files/files/report-in-harms-way.pdf>.

^{iv} EIP and Earthjustice. *Out of Control: Mounting Damages from Coal Ash Waste Sites*, February 24, 2010, available at <http://earthjustice.org/sites/default/files/library/reports/ej-eipreportout-of-control-final.pdf>.

^v EIP. *Third Damage Report*. December 12, 2011, available at <http://www.environmentalintegrity.org/documents/121311EIPThirdDamageReport.pdf>

^{vi} James Bruggers, Louisville Courier-Journal, LG&E to pay \$113,250 fine over alleged coal ash violations (Nov. 14, 2013), available at <http://www.courier-journal.com/article/20131113/NEWS01/311130111/>.