New Mexico and Coal Ash Disposal in Ponds and Landfills

**Summary:**

Plant | Operator | Site | County
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Escalante Power Station | Tri-State G&T Association, Inc. | 4 ponds/landfill* | McKinley
Four Corners Power Station (AZPS) | Arizona Public Service | 5 ponds | San Juan
San Juan (PNM) | Public Service Co. of New Mexico | data indeterminate | San Juan

*indicates one or more coal ash landfills.

**Amount of coal ash generated per year:** Over 3.6 million tons. NM ranks 10th in the country for coal ash generation.²

The U.S. EPA has not yet gathered information on coal ash disposal in landfills, so a detailed breakdown is not yet available.

**Information on New Mexico Coal Ash in Ponds**

**Number of Coal Ash Ponds:** 9 ponds at 2 plants.³

**Pond Ratings:** Three ponds rated as “significant hazard.”⁴

**Age of Ponds:** One pond is 30 years old and 5 are 25 years old.⁵ The age of these ponds makes it unlikely that they have safeguards like liners and leachate collection systems.

**Capacity and releases:** The 9 ponds in NM cover an area of 165 acres.⁶ According to the EPA surface impoundment database, the 4 ponds in NM for which EPA has storage capacity data (all at the Four Corners Power Station) can store up to 4.5 million cubic yards of coal ash.⁷ The EPA database does not mention any releases at ponds in NM.

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⁴ Id.
⁵ Id.
⁶ Id.
⁷ Id.