

Conditions Now

Damage Cases – From a total of 450 coal burning utilities (300 landfills and 300 surface impoundments), there are seventeen proven cases of groundwater damage: 6 associated with placement as fill in unlined sand and gravel pits, 4 in landfills, and 7 in surface impoundments, none at coal mines. One unit involved a liner failure, the rest of the units were unlined.

Risk Modeling – Issues with the risk model have been addressed and results are similar to the analyses conducted for the Regulatory Determination.

- The primary risk to groundwater is from Arsenic. Risk exceedances due to arsenic in groundwater to drinking water pathway range from [redacted] to [redacted] for landfills (similar to coal mine pits). This value for landfills is essentially the same as the MCL for Arsenic. / High end, 9070
- We also performed new analyses for Mercury in the groundwater to surface water pathway, but results were inconclusive due to nondetects.
- We are continuing to work with OAR and ORD regarding possible changes in Mercury concentrations due to recent regulations limiting Mercury emissions – that situation is uncertain depending greatly on which technology options facilities ultimately select.
- There are ecological risks associated with surface impoundments to terrestrial and aquatic communities primarily from selenium and boron.
- Draft risk assessment document to be completed by the end of August.