



Use these talking points to personalize your comment.
Tell EPA why strong, federally enforceable safeguards for coal ash are important to *you!*

Why Do We Need Coal Ash Safeguards?

- Federally enforceable safeguards must ensure coal ash dumps and waste ponds have all the protections presently required at household waste landfills, including solid waste permits, liners; monitoring systems, leachate collection systems, corrective action, financial assurance, fugitive dust suppression, transport controls, etc.
- There are currently **no federally enforceable regulations** for coal ash, and contamination from coal ash dumps and waste ponds is already poisoning drinking water supplies and damaging wildlife such as fish and birds at contaminated sites across the country.
- The lack of federally enforceable safeguards is **exactly what led to the disaster in Tennessee**, where in December 2008 a dam holding more than 1 billion gallons of toxic coal ash failed, destroying 300 acres of land, dozens of homes, killed fish and other wildlife, and poisoned the Emory and Clinch Rivers.
- So much coal ash is produced every year that it would fill train cars stretching from the North Pole all the way to the South Pole.
- Coal ash contamination by the bioaccumulative toxin selenium has wiped out entire fish populations and caused long-term ecosystem damage.

On EPA's Plan to Regulate Coal Ash

- I support the EPA's plan to regulate coal ash as a "special waste" under the Subtitle C of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act.
- **Only Subtitle C** regulations can guarantee the full panoply of needed protections and the phase-out of dangerous waste ponds.
- Coal ash should NOT be regulated under the much

weaker and less protective standards provided by Subtitle D designation, as non-hazardous waste.

- Regulating coal ash under Subtitle D of RCRA is a bogus, busted and broken approach that essentially keeps the status quo of voluntary and patchwork protections.
- Subtitle D regulations cannot guarantee all citizens adequate protection from toxic ash because Subtitle D does not require states to adopt federal guidelines.
- The Obama administration needs to rely on the best available science in setting federally enforceable safeguards for coal ash.

Health Risks of Coal Ash

- Living near an unlined coal ash waste pond and drinking water contaminated with arsenic can be **more dangerous than smoking a pack of cigarettes a day**, according to a risk assessment done by the EPA.
- Coal ash is contaminating our drinking water supplies, and it is only getting worse as the waste stream grows in volume and toxicity.
- People living near unlined coal ash ponds, where water is contaminated by arsenic, have an extremely high risk of cancer, up to 1 in 50. This is **2,000 times** greater than EPA's acceptable cancer risk.
- The toxins in coal ash, such as arsenic, lead, cadmium, chromium, selenium and others, have been linked to **cancer, organ disease, respiratory illness, neurological damage, and reproductive and developmental problems**.
- Coal ash contamination disproportionately impacts the **poorest communities**.

Official EPA resources on the proposed coal ash rule:

- Text of proposed rule:
<http://www.epa.gov/epawaste/nonhaz/industrial/special/fossil/ccr-rule/index.htm#propose>
- FAQs: <http://www.epa.gov/epawaste/nonhaz/industrial/special/fossil/ccr-rule/ccrfaq.htm>
- Key differences between Subtitle C and Subtitle D:
<http://www.epa.gov/epawaste/nonhaz/industrial/special/fossil/ccr-rule/ccr-table.htm>