

Louisiana and Coal Ash Disposal in Ponds and Landfills

Summary:¹

Plant	Operator	Facility	County
Dolet Hills Power Station	CLECO Power LLC	6 ponds/landfill*	De Soto
Rodemacher Power Station	Cleco Power LLC	2 ponds	Rapides
Big Cajun 2 Power Station	NRG Energy	3 ponds	Pointe Coupee
R S Nelson (EGULF)	Entergy Gulf States Inc.	data indeterminate	Calcasieu
Mansfield Mill	International Paper Co.	landfill*	De Soto

*indicates one or more coal ash landfills.²

Amount of coal ash generated per year: Over 1.5 million tons. LA ranks 25th in the country for coal ash generation.³

The U.S. EPA has not yet gathered information on coal ash disposal in landfills, so a detailed breakdown is not yet available. However, according to a 2007 EPA risk assessment, the Dolet Hills Power Station has unlined surface impoundments and landfills. Four other surface impoundments and landfills in Louisiana are only clay-lined; three of these sites do not have leachate control systems and one (Big Cajun 2) does not conduct any groundwater monitoring.⁴

Information on Louisiana Coal Ash Ponds

Number of Coal Ash Ponds: 11 ponds at 3 plants.⁵

Pond Ratings: None of Louisiana's ponds were ranked "high" or "significant" hazard.⁶

Age of Ponds: All of Louisiana's ponds are at least 20 years old.⁷ The average age of Louisiana's coal ash ponds is 25.4 years.

Capacity and releases: According to EPA data, there have been no historical releases at any of the Louisiana ash ponds.⁸

¹ United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA). Database of coal combustion waste surface impoundments (2009). Information collected by EPA from industry responses to Information Collection Request letters issued to the companies on March 9, 2009.

² U.S. Department of Energy's Energy Information Administration, Form EIA-767, Annual Steam-Electric Plant Operation and Design Data. 2005.

³ U.S. EPA and United States Department of Energy (U.S. DOE). *Coal Combustion Waste Management at Landfills and Surface Impoundments, 1994-2004* (August 2006).

⁴ RTI International. *Human and Ecological Risk Assessment of Coal Combustion Wastes, Draft* (August 6, 2007), prepared for the US Environmental Protection Agency.

⁵ U.S. EPA. Database of coal combustion waste surface impoundments (2009).

⁶ *Id.*

⁷ *Id.*

⁸ *Id.*