



Contrary to much rhetoric, coal ash actually contains numerous toxic heavy metals in high concentrations. These are extremely hazardous to human health and the environment.

STATES CAN'T DO IT ALONE

Coal ash is a nationwide problem at the intersection of energy, water, waste disposal, environmental justice, and public health. State programs fail to protect public health from toxic coal ash pollution. States need minimum federal standards to adequately address this problem.

EPA NEEDS TO SET REGULATIONS

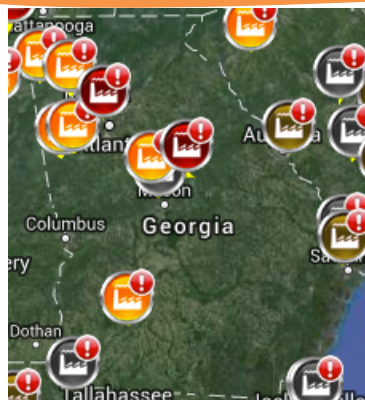
Congressional attempts to write coal ash regulation were found inadequate to protect public health and the environment by two Congressional Research Service Reports.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Urge your senators and representative to oppose any proposed legislation that supersedes EPA's authority to set and enforce regulations of toxic coal ash. A federal minimum regulation model has worked for many types of air and water pollution and can work for coal ash, if we let it.

Georgia's Toxic Tragedy:

Coal ash is America's largest unregulated waste stream



✓ Georgia is home to **41 coal ash impoundments containing at least 14 billion gallons of coal combustion waste.** That's enough to cover **33,883 football fields one foot deep.**

- ✓ After the 2008 coal ash disaster in Kingston, TN, the Environmental Protection Agency set out to rate all coal ash impoundments nationwide based on the threat they pose to nearby communities and infrastructure.
- ✓ **According to EPA, Georgia's ash impoundments threaten local communities**
 - ✓ **Two are High Hazard and would cause loss of life** in the event of dam failure.
 - ✓ **Four are rated Significant Hazard would cause damage** to property and infrastructure.
 - ✓ Two are in poor condition.
- ✓ **\$6.1 million worth of damage** has been caused to fish, wildlife and communities by Georgia's one documented coal ash damage case at Euharlee Creek. Other instances of contamination have not yet been declared damage cases.

Georgia's Communities and Waters Need Coal Ash Protection

According to the reports "State of Failure" by Earthjustice and "Closing the Floodgates" by the Environmental Integrity Project:

- ✓ There are no limits on the amount of toxic heavy metals Georgia's power plants are allowed to release into public waters.
 - **Georgia fails to protect the public** from coal ash by imposing basic safeguards at coal ash dumps.
 - GA regulations **lack requirements** for groundwater monitoring, liners for impoundments, prohibition of constructing ash impoundments in the water table, emergency action plans and geotechnical/engineering inspections by operators.
 - As of August 2011 **regulators had inspected only 7%** of Georgia's coal ash dams in the last 5 years.
- Much of GA's coal ash is dumped into unlined ponds or pits, located close to waterways. **Toxins readily leach into drinking water supplies.**
- Over a dozen lawsuits have been filed on behalf of Juliette, Georgia residents claiming personal property damage from coal ash at Georgia Power's Plant Scherer.
- Coal ash is a major factor in Georgia's Flint River being named America's second-most endangered river of 2013 by American Rivers.

To learn more about coal ash and if it threatens the places you care about visit www.SouthEastCoalAsh.org



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