



Tennessee's Toxic Tragedy:

Coal ash is America's largest unregulated waste stream

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

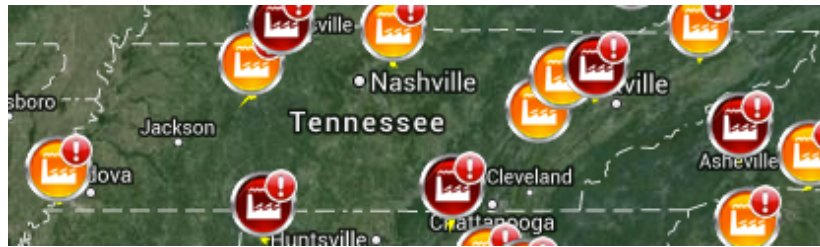
Coal ash is a nationwide problem at the intersection of energy, water, waste disposal, environmental justice, and public health. State programs fail to protect public health from toxic coal ash pollution. States need minimum federal standards to adequately address this problem.

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.



- ✓ Tennessee is home to **44 coal ash impoundments containing at least 16 billion gallons of coal combustion waste.** That's enough to cover **39,007 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.
 - ✓ **Two are High Hazard and would cause loss of life** in the event of dam failure.
 - ✓ **Five are Significant Hazard and would damage** property and infrastructure.
- ✓ **\$2.3 billion worth of damage** has been caused to fish, wildlife and human communities by Tennessee's three coal ash damage cases at Kingston, Melton Hill Reservoir and McCoy Branch. Other instances of contamination have not yet been declared damage cases.

Tennessee's Communities and Waters Need Coal Ash Protection

According to the report "State of Failure" by Earthjustice

- Much of TN's coal ash is dumped into unlined ponds or pits, located close to waterways. **Toxins readily leach into drinking water supplies.**
- Tennessee **fails to protect the public** from coal ash by imposing basic safeguards at coal ash dumps.
- Citizens across Tennessee are endangered by coal ash pollution:
 - Public advocacy groups have filed legal action challenging inadequate water pollution permits at four TVA coal plants. The groups allege the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation is violating the Clean Water Act by failing to regulate wastewater discharges to Tennessee waterways.
 - Over 500 property owners have claimed damages from the 2008 TVA Kingston coal ash disaster, which released one billion gallons of toxic coal ash over 300 acres.
- TN regulations **lack requirements** for groundwater monitoring, liners for impoundments, financial assurance of coal ash impoundments, emergency action plans and inundation mapping and engineering inspections by operators.
- As of August 2011 **regulators had inspected 0%** of Tennessee's coal ash dams in the last 5 years.

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



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