



Florida's Toxic Tragedy:

Coal ash is America's largest unregulated waste stream

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

STATES CAN'T DO IT ALONE

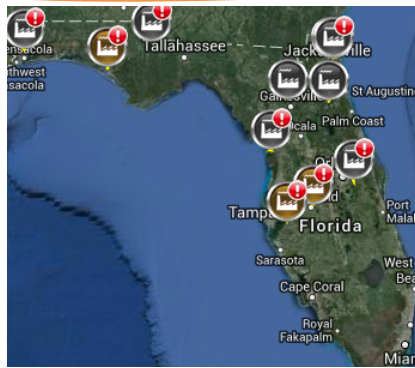
Coal ash is a nation wide problem at the intersection of energy, water, waste disposal, environmental justice, and public health. State programs fail to protect public health from toxic coal ash pollution. States need minimum federal standards to adequately address this problem.

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 Representatives 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.



Florida is home to **78 coal ash impoundments** and the state's power plants produce **8.2 billion gallons of coal ash every year.**

- ✓ After the 2008 coal ash disaster in Kingston, TN, the Environmental Protection Agency set out to rate all coal ash impoundments nation wide based on the threat they pose to nearby communities and infrastructure.
- ✓ **Because Florida utilities have failed to provide adequate information to the Environmental Protection Agency the public has no way to know:**
 - ✓ The total amount of toxic coal ash stored at each power plant.
 - ✓ The hazard posed by coal ash dams to local communities and waterways.
 - ✓ The condition and stability of ash impoundment dams.

Florida's Communities and Waters Need Coal Ash Protection

According to the report "State of Failure" by Earthjustice:

- Much of FL's coal ash is dumped into unlined ponds or pits, located close to waterways. **Toxins readily leach into drinking water supplies.**
- Citizens across Florida are endangered by coal ash pollution:
 - Half of Florida's power plants have documented damage cases. At these sites coal ash has contaminated ground and surface waters with heavy metals, radioactive particles and other pollutants.
 - Unregulated reuse of coal ash from the Jacksonville Electric Authority, marketed as EZBase, has caused contamination problems for several Florida communities and property owners, triggering expensive cleanups.
- **Florida fails to protect the public** from coal ash by imposing basic safeguards at coal ash dumps.
- Florida regulations **lack requirements** for groundwater monitoring, liners for impoundments, financial assurance, prohibition of coal ash impoundments in the water table, engineer certification of construction, meeting design standards and specifications, emergency action plans and engineering inspections by operators.

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



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