

The Environmental Protection Agency is holding public comment hearings across the country concerning the classification of coal ash waste as a hazardous waste. Exposure to coal ash waste has been demonstrated to lead to increased risks of cancer, birth defects, developmental disabilities, respiratory problems, and other illnesses. The coal ash spill in Tennessee just before Christmas in 2008 poured tons of this dangerous waste into a rural community. It is vital that the public tell the EPA that coal ash waste must be regulated as a health and environmental hazard.

You may comment by sending an email with your concerns. Please write the U.S. EPA at: rcra-docket@epa.gov. Remember to include this Subject: **Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-RCRA-2009-0640**. Feel free to copy and paste the text below into your email, or edit it to personalize your message. Comments are due by November 19.

Thank you for recognizing the serious problems posed by toxic coal ash left from the burning of coal. Communities across the country are exposed to heavy metals such as arsenic, lead and mercury seeping from ash storage sites into our drinking water, rivers and streams. The result -- increased risk of cancer, learning disabilities, birth defects and other illnesses. As a person of faith, I believe that this is absolutely unacceptable. CCR's not only harm creation but have lasting and irreversible impacts on future generations.

Coal ash is hazardous, but less strictly controlled than household garbage. The EPA must adopt enforceable federal safeguards, not suggested guidelines for states, to protect creation. Specifically we are asking the U.S. EPA to please regulate Coal Combustion Residuals (CCRs) under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) subtitle C, including CCRs destined for commerce as beneficial-use of CCRs (i.e bottom ash, fly ash, mercury adsorbed sorbents etc.!) Please remove the present "1989 Bevil exemption on CCRs" including exemptions on beneficial-use CCRs.

Thank you for your consideration.

You can learn more about coal ash waste with these links: http://www.cleanenergy.org/index.php?/Learn-About-Detail.html?form_id=52&item_id=90 (SACE) and Georgia Interfaith Power and Light http://www.gipl.org/content/coal_ash.asp. The map below (PLEASE ADD THE MAP FROM THE LINK HERE) of Coal Combustion Disposal Sites in the Southeast, provided by the [Southern Environmental Law Center](#) will show you that our state already has numerous sites where coal ash waste is stored. Your letter to the EPA will help protect your family, friends, and neighbors from these health risks.

The closest hearing to Georgia will be in Charlotte, NC on Tuesday, September 14. If you would like to go to Charlotte to comment, the Savannah Riverkeeper is planning for vans or a bus to take people there and return later that same day. You may email them at hwalker@savannahriverkeeper for more details. You can sign up to comment, or find out more about the meeting location here:

<http://www.epa.gov/epawaste/nonhaz/industrial/special/fossil/ccr-rule/ccr-hearing.htm>

For more information about coal ash waste and Plant Washington, email stopplantwashington@gmail.com.