

Dear ECO Members and Friends:

After years of stalling, the federal government is finally proposing to regulate the 150 million tons of toxic coal combustion waste generated each year at coal-fired power plants across the U.S.

That's the good news. The bad news: One option in EPA's proposed rule would allow waste producers to treat coal ash like household garbage, rather than dangerous, hazardous waste. We need your help to stop this right now!

Coal ash contains a toxic soup of heavy metals from arsenic to mercury whose effect on living things such as humans includes cancer, and systemic destruction of nerve tissue, stomach, intestines, heart, bladders, kidneys, liver and more.

Of the 49 "high hazard" coal ash ponds in the country, 12 are located in North Carolina, two in our own backyard at the Progress Energy plant in Skyland. "High hazard" refers to the likelihood of death and destruction caused by coal ash pond failure. At this site, there is evidence of leaching of coal ash into groundwater and into nearby streams and Progress Energy's own tests reveal 116 instances in which pollution exceeded state standards, in some cases state standards were exceeded at a rate as high as 189 times the acceptable standard!

Hearings are being scheduled across the country, and you can comment in lieu of attending a hearing.

Comments are being accepted by email, mail or fax. Please take the time to let the EPA know your views on the matter.

To make comments, here's what to do:

By Email: Send to rcra-docket@epa.gov, Attention Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-RCRA-2009-0640

By Fax: 202-566-0272; Attention Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-RCRA-2009-0640

By Snail Mail: Hazardous Waste Management System
Attention Docket ID No., EPA-HQ-RCRA-2009-0640
Environmental Protection Agency
Mailcode: 5305T, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW.,
Washington, DC 20460.

Please include a total of two copies if sending by mail.

Best,

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