

## **Illinois Environmental Protection Agency Notice of Public Outreach and Listening Sessions Forthcoming Regulations for Coal Ash Ponds**

On July 30, 2019, Governor JB Pritzker signed Public Act 101-171 to require additional protections on coal combustion residual (“CCR”) surface impoundments also known as coal ash ponds. CCR surface impoundments contain fly ash, bottom ash, boiler slag, and flue gas desulfurization materials generated from burning coal for the purpose of generating electricity by electric utilities and independent power producers.

The new law, which amends the Environmental Protection Act, directs how CCR surface impoundments are to be built, operated, and closed. The amendment requires CCR surface impoundments to be monitored for groundwater contamination and remediated when necessary to achieve compliance. Owners of CCR surface impoundments must provide financial assurance to cover closure and cleanup costs. The amendment provides for transparency and public participation regarding the closure and cleanup of CCR surface impoundments. For CCR surface impoundments required to close under federal law, the amendment requires rules specifying a method to prioritize closure so that those with the highest risk to public health and the environment and those located in areas of environmental justice concern are given first priority.

**Prior to drafting rules, the Illinois EPA will host six listening sessions and one webinar to receive public input.** The locations were chosen for geographic diversity and to emphasize coal ash impoundments located in areas of environmental justice concern. The Agency will review the input it receives during the listening sessions, will draft new rules, and will make the draft rules available for public review and comment prior to filing with the Illinois Pollution Control Board (IPCB). The IPCB will hold hearings and accept public comments on the proposed regulations.

Public outreach and listening session schedule:

Peoria	September 10, 2019	Gateway Building 200 Northeast Water Street	2 pm to 4 pm & 6 pm to 8 pm
Granite City	September 11, 2019	Granite City Township Hall 2060A Delmar Avenue	2 pm to 4 pm & 6 pm to 8 pm
Danville	September 17, 2019	Bremer Auditorium 2000 E. Main Street	2 pm to 4 pm & 6 pm to 8 pm
Webinar	September 24, 2019	Web login, see Illinois EPA website for login details	10 am
Mt. Vernon	September 26, 2019	Rolland Lewis Community Building 800 S 27th Street	2 pm to 4 pm & 6 pm to 8 pm
Joliet	October 8, 2019	Joliet Jr. College Weitendorf Agriculture Center 17840 Laraway Road	2 pm to 4 pm & 6 pm to 8 pm
Waukegan	October 9, 2019	Whittier Elementary School 901 N. Lewis Avenue	2 pm to 4 pm & 6 pm to 8 pm

To learn more about PA 101-171 and Illinois EPA’s timeline for drafting and submitting the proposed rules to the Illinois Pollution Control Board, please visit <https://www2.illinois.gov/epa/topics/water-quality/watershed-management/ccr-surface-impoundments/Pages/default.aspx>

Illinois EPA welcomes comments regarding PA 101-171 and its corresponding rulemaking process. Please e-mail comments to [EPA.CoalAshRules@illinois.gov](mailto:EPA.CoalAshRules@illinois.gov)

For more information about the public outreach and listening sessions or general questions please contact:

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