Tell NRG:  
MOVE YOUR ASH!

WHO IS NRG AND WHERE IS THE LINCOLN STONE QUARRY?

- NRG is the owner of the Lincoln Stone Quarry coal ash dump, located SW of the intersection of Brandon Rd and Patterson Rd in Joliet. The dump has no liner beneath it and is dug deep into the earth, allowing toxins to seep into groundwater that is a source of drinking water.
- NRG and its corporate predecessors have been dumping toxic coal ash into the former Quarry for decades. As of 2019, 2.6 million (2,600,000) cubic yards (tons) have been dumped there.

ABANDONING 2.6 MILLION CUBIC YARDS OF COAL ASH IN THE QUARRY LEAVES GENERATIONS AT RISK.

- Coal ash contains a slew of carcinogens, neurotoxins, and poisons—including arsenic, boron, cadmium, hexavalent chromium, lead, lithium, mercury, molybdenum, selenium, and thallium.
- Coal ash has contaminated groundwater at and near the Lincoln Stone Quarry ash dump. Ongoing testing of groundwater in and around the Quarry has revealed unsafe levels of dangerous pollutants, including arsenic, molybdenum, lithium, and boron.
- Coal ash pollutants have been found in nearby drinking water. When residential wells near the Quarry were tested years ago, results showed elevated levels of sulfate, sodium, total dissolved solids, and boron—all associated with coal ash. But NRG has never performed extensive testing of all nearby residential wells, so it is not clear how far the pollution has spread.
- These contaminants do not break down in the environment. Unless treated and removed, they remain in the water for centuries. The flowing groundwater carries them, spreading pollution outwards from the source. Although NRG is pumping some of the polluted water back into the ash dump, it is not capturing all of it—dangerous contamination continues to flow out.
- Coal ash pollution also flows into the Des Plaines River, a river already polluted by heavy metals.

HOW CAN WE STOP THIS POLLUTION AND PROTECT DRINKING WATER?

- The only way to stop the coal ash in the Quarry from poisoning groundwater for centuries is to MOVE THE ASH. NRG should “remove” (dig up) the toxic coal ash and move it to a dry, properly lined landfill, out of the groundwater and away from the river and residential areas. But that’s not NRG’s plan. NRG wants to cap and abandon the 2.6 million cubic yards of toxic coal ash in the Quarry coal ash dump.

WHAT CAN I DO TO KEEP OUR WATER SAFE?

- Tell NRG its plan is unacceptable! Attend NRG’s meeting about closure options for the Quarry coal ash dump on August 27, 2019 and demand these things:
  - Move your ash. Toxic coal ash is soaking in groundwater in the Quarry. No cap can fix that.
  - Comprehensive Investigation. NRG already knows that the pollution has leaked out of the Quarry. It must determine how far the pollution has traveled and clean it all up.
  - Test water wells. NRG must test ALL nearby drinking water wells. If unsafe pollution is found in those wells, it must provide the residents with clean, safe water.
  - Complete the cleanup as efficiently as possible. No unreasonable delays. NRG says it doesn’t want to move the ash in part due to its ludicrous claim that removal would take 31 years. That’s bonkers. Similar volumes of coal ash have been excavated in the Carolinas in just a few years. Move your ash—and do it fast!
  - Include the community. The community, not NRG, will live with the consequences of NRG’s closure decision for generations. NRG must provide meaningful public involvement.
  - Protection for all. NRG’s closure of the Lincoln Stone Quarry coal ash dump must protect both cleanup workers and the community, wherever the toxic ash will go.
- Review this toolkit to help prepare for the meeting: https://earthjustice.org/coalash/toolkit/doc

Come to NRG’s public meeting on Tuesday, August 27, at 3-7pm at Mt. Zion Church, Joliet