ENVIRONMENTAL INTEGRITY PROJECT

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By Email

Mathy Stanislaus
Assistant Administrator, Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response
U. S. Environmental Protection Agency
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Re: Request for a Meeting Regarding Today's Federal Register Notice Announcing Coal Ash Rule Hearings

Dear Assistant Administrator Stanislaus:

The undersigned groups would like to request a meeting with you, at your earliest convenience, to discuss the Announcement of Public Hearings on the proposed coal ash rule that was published today. 75 Fed. Reg. 41,121 (July 15, 2010).

We are thankful that EPA has scheduled the public hearings announced today. However, we are concerned that there are no public hearings scheduled in the areas most at risk from mismanaged coal combustion waste landfills and surface impoundments. It is particularly troubling that there is no hearing scheduled in Tennessee given the disaster at TVA's Kingston Fossil Plant that occurred in Roane County.

As your proposed coal ash rule noted, proximity to coal ash dumps is an environmental justice problem, disproportionately impacting lower-income Americans. Our many members, clients, and colleagues living near some of the most prevalent coal ash disposal regions, including Western Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Georgia, and the Ohio Valley, will not have easy access to any of the hearing locations listed in today's Federal Register notice. For example, the over 550 western Pennsylvania residents that have already requested a Pittsburgh hearing would now be required to travel over five hours to Washington, DC, and would have to sacrifice at least one day of work to tell their story to your staff, a sacrifice many are unable to make in these economic times.

We therefore renew our requests for public hearings in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; Roane County, Tennessee; Atlanta, Georgia; and Louisville, Kentucky. As we have stated, it is critical that the voices of these most affected communities be heard in this process.

100% PCW

Please let us know when you are available to meet with representatives from our groups to discuss this request, and thank you for your commitment to ensuring that the public has an opportunity to provide public comments.

Respectfully submitted by:

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