



# COAL COMBUSTION WASTE LANDFILL AT COFFEEN POWER STATION

## How will the Ameren Energy Generating Company's coal combustion waste landfill affect your quality of life?

To find out, attend a  
**Public Hearing December 17, 2009 at 6:00 PM**  
At East Fork Township Building  
500 South Prospect, Coffeen, Illinois

Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) has made a tentative determination to issue a modified five-year National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit for a proposed Coal Combustion Waste (CCW) landfill and a leaking closed ash pond located near the Coffeen Power Station. The new CCW landfill will include a dry landfill cell encompassing approximately 22 acres, with future expansions adding up to 2 additional cells covering 65 acres. The ash pond that has been closed and capped, yet is leaching, covers 57 acres. The leaching is due to "sloughing" of the walls built to contain the toxic waste.

The NPDES permit regulates the types and amounts of pollutants that can be discharged and establishes regulations for monitoring, reporting requirements, and enforcement at the landfill and closed ash pond.



## Our concerns:

- ❖ The Agency should postpone permitting of Ameren's proposed plan until the draft of new USEPA rules regarding the disposal of coal combustion waste is released in mid-December.
- ❖ The permit will allow the discharge of mercury and other metals, salts and solids into Coffeen Lake. Coffeen Lake is already listed as impaired for fish consumption use because of mercury and for aesthetic quality because of total suspended solids, among other things. Coffeen Lake is known as an outstanding recreational site; particularly for fishing. Fish consumption is a protected designated use of Coffeen Lake and must be upheld as such.
- ❖ Toxic chemicals including arsenic, mercury, cadmium, chromium, selenium, aluminum, antimony, barium, beryllium, boron, copper, lead, manganese, molybdenum, nickel, vanadium, and zinc is contained in the power plant waste. The permit should include rigorous controls on placement of the waste, strict limits on concentrations of contaminants in discharge water, immediate correction of the coal ash pond currently leaching pollutants and impermeable liners in all the landfill areas.
- ❖ Illinois regulation requires groundwater monitoring in the vicinity of the proposed disposal site, however, there is no mention in the draft permit indicating groundwater monitoring is planned.

The public notice/fact sheet which contains the draft antidegradation assessment and the draft NPDES permit can be viewed on the IEPA website: <http://www.epa.state.il.us/public-notices/2009/ameren-coffeen/index.pdf>

# What you can do

## Attend the Public Hearing:

This Public Hearing is being held for citizens to express concerns about how this project will affect them, as well as to ask questions and learn more about the project.

Speakers need not know technical aspects of the issue – this is the time ask questions and to express your concerns to the IEPA.

Participants may make oral comments at the Public Hearing and will be allowed to submit written comments.

\*Written comments must be postmarked or emailed by midnight, Jan. 19, 2010.

Mail to: Hearing Officer Dean Studer, Re: Coffeen Power Station NPDES, IEPA, PO Box 19276, Springfield, IL 62794. Email: [Dean.Studer@Illinois.gov](mailto:Dean.Studer@Illinois.gov) -- Subject line must include: IEPA hearing.

### IEPA Public Hearing on Coffeen Power Station CCW Landfill

Dec. 17, 2009 at 6:00 PM  
East Fork Township Building  
500 South Prospect

## Want to do more?

Write a Letter to the Editor about the issue–tell your neighbors and legislators how you feel.

## For more info contact:

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