
OPINIONS

Durbin moved to block dumping

Polluted water has nothing to do with creating jobs or managing funds for our federal highway and transit programs. Thankfully, U.S. Sen. Dick Durbin knows this and pushed to pull a dangerous provision out of the federal transportation bill that would have allowed the continued dumping of coal ash.

But the fight to protect Americans from the threat of coal ash pollution continues.

In Illinois, there are 4.4 million tons of coal ash generated per year. We've got 83 coal ash storage ponds, and less than half of them are lined to prevent a major catastrophe.

Illinois residents are impacted and threatened by mismanaged coal ash from blowing coal ash dust, contaminated groundwater and discharges of harmful coal ash pollutants into our streams and rivers.

This has to stop, not just for residents of Illinois but for all Americans. I urge Durbin to take the next step and push for federal coal ash protections.

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