

EARTH DAY  
April 22, 2014

Dear Co-Chairs Hagar, Samuelson and Jackson and All Members of the ERC:

North Carolina's Dan River coal ash spill and the State's paralysis about disposal of coal ash and failure to act decisively to stop coal ash water pollution are harming North Carolina on an incredible scale. My relatives all over the country are still oblivious to the harms of fracking and climate change, but they sure do know about NC's coal ash pollution. What radio, TV and newspaper has not covered our coal ash problem and pollution? The answer, of course, is almost none and the spotlight continues on NC.

CBS, ABC, NPR, NBC, CNN, Rachel Maddow, The Guardian, LA Times, NY Times, National Geographic News, Miami Herald, Al Jazeera, WSJ.....

This deserved negative publicity will not go away and is harming tourism and our NC's reputation. This is tarring our entire State and is damaging commerce. The Dan River spill and Duke Energy's lack of cooperation and threats about rate increases, the belief that DENR is weak and told what to do by Duke Energy, DENR's failure to act on coal ash disposal and continuing water pollution, this is not good for our State on so many levels.

Unless DENR and the NC Legislature include environmental groups in developing this complex waste clean up and disposal project, the uproar will continue and partial solutions and mistakes will be made. NC's pollution will continue to make headlines and will continue to undermine public confidence in State Government's commitment to rebuild environmental protections in NC.

Here are the major elements of a successful NC Coal Ash Program:

1. remove coal ash and clean up the Dan River;
2. drain and remove coal ash from all open coal ash pits in NC and close the pits for good;
3. store dry coal ash in dry, sealed above-ground containment;
4. locate coal ash storage containment on-site of the coal ash power plants but above the flood plain and as much as possible avoid transporting of coal ash along our roads or rails and avoid using landfills which will leak;
5. monitor coal ash disposal closely so that this process does not cause contamination;
6. stop and monitor groundwater and surface water pollution around the closed pits;
5. stop using open, unlined pits near river banks for the storage of new coal ash.

The NC Legislature, DENR and environmental groups must work together so that some day soon we can announce the conclusion of our successful coal ash project and our unified effort will be believable and NC will again be a non toxic and desirable destination.

A good reference

[http://www.bredl.org/pdf4/Coal\\_ash\\_report\\_14-083\\_w\\_Appx\\_A+B.pdf](http://www.bredl.org/pdf4/Coal_ash_report_14-083_w_Appx_A+B.pdf)

Thank you

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