



PROTECT COMMUNITIES FROM TOXIC COAL ASH Support SB9 (Bennett)

A Toxic Threat to Water and Health

- Coal ash is a toxic byproduct of burning coal, and it contains a toxic soup of metals, including arsenic, mercury, lead and chromium.
- Illinois has the most coal ash dumps of any state, with at least 80 dumps at dozens of sites.
- At every ash dump in Illinois where groundwater has been tested, toxic coal ash pollutants are leaking into groundwater.

A Need for Action

- A federal court ruled that unlined coal ash impoundments must close because they pose too high of a risk to health and the environment. All but two of Illinois' coal ash ponds are unlined.
- The toxins in coal ash can leach out for hundreds of years. It is critical that these ash impoundments be closed safely.
- Illinois should follow states like Virginia and North Carolina in moving forward with comprehensive legislation for safe closure of coal ash impoundments.

To protect communities, SB9 would:

- Provide a regulatory framework that ensures EPA approves protective closure plans for coal ash impoundments.
- Require Financial Assurance to ensure Illinois taxpayers are not stuck with the bill.
- Ensure public participation and transparency for affected communities
- Focus on environmental justice communities and high risk impoundments.
- Assess fees on polluters to provide EPA the resources they need.