

ASH POND NEWSBYTES



May 2021

Dear Readers,

The following is a collection of ash pond news from the month of May 2021. Our intent is to provide you with important news pieces to help inform your business decisions and keep you informed about the coal and ash pond industry.

– Peter Alvey & The Roux Team

COAL POWER PLANT ASH POND CLOSURE AND MODIFICATIONS

Evergy intends to close its Lawrence, Kansas coal-fired power plant by 2023. The plant has been open since the 1930s and **Evergy** hopes its closure will bring cleaner air and more renewable energy opportunities to the area. [Link](#)

Dynegy Midwest Generation's (owned by **Vistra**) Vermillion Power Station in Danville, Illinois closed in 2011. The contamination from adjacent coal ponds, located on the Middle Fork River, is seeping into the river. The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) is making moves to enforce cleanup and compliance with local regulations. [Link](#) [Listen](#)

CLOSURES, CONT.

In Marshall County, West Virginia, **American Electric Power** subsidiaries **Appalachian Power** and **Wheeling Power** are planning to retire the coal-fired Mitchell Power Plant. Operations will cease in 2028 if retirement occurs, the preferred economical option over making an investment to comply with federal wastewater guidelines.

[Link](#)

SPECIAL REPORT

An update to the 2019 Coal Cost Crossover Report is available, with updates confirming the initial projection that 75% of all coal plants would be uneconomic by 2025, was met in 2020.

[Link](#)



John E. Amos Power Plant near Winfield, West Virginia

CONTAMINATION

Although the industry has known for a while about the dangers of storing coal ash residuals in unlined ponds and landfills, **Georgia Power's** Plant Scherer, among others, are facing recent criticism and scrutiny over carcinogenic contaminants found in the drinking water of nearby residents. [Link](#)

The Michigan Environmental Council (MEC) has updated its report regarding the nature of contamination by coal-fired electricity generation. The findings reinforce that coal is dangerous to both water and air quality. Review of 2018 and 2019 monitoring data shows that 12 coal ash disposal sites in Michigan have levels of toxic chemicals in the groundwater exceeding state and federal protective standards. **DTE Energy** of Michigan derives 56% of its energy from coal-fired power plants. [Link](#)

Harris Energy of Littleton, New Hampshire, still provides coal for heating around 250 residential customers in the New England region. Merrimack Station in Bow, New Hampshire produces the coal for this region and is owned by Granite Shore Power. [Link](#)



A working residential coal-fired fireplace in New Hampshire.

NEWSWORTHY

The North American Electric Reliability Corporation's (NERC) 2021 Summer Reliability Assessment provides a warning of energy shortfalls due to above-normal temperatures. The regions most at risk include California, Texas, New England, and parts of the Midwest. The recent Colonial Pipeline Hack adds another layer of risk to this summer's energy supply equation. [Link](#)

Contact Us

Roux

1200 Harger Rd., Suite 800
Oak Brook, IL 60523
(630) 572-3300
palvey@rouxinc.com
www.rouxinc.com

LEGAL AND REGULATORY

Dominion Power provided an update to the New Canton community regarding the future of coal ash stored at the Bremono facility in New Canton, Virginia. The optimal scenario involves moving the 6.2 million cubic feet of coal ash from an unlined ash pond into a lined landfill. [Link](#)

Kentucky Utilities Co. faced allegations from the Sierra Club and Kentucky Waterways Alliance that the E.W. Brown Generating Station in Mercer County, Kentucky, was violating hazardous waste management law. A Kentucky federal court has thrown out these allegations. [Link](#)

Duke Energy of Charlotte, North Carolina settled with two insurance companies it sued after they refused to help pay for the multibillion-dollar cleanups required for six sites across North and South Carolina. The settlement amount was not disclosed and discussions are continuing with 21 remaining companies. [Link](#)

The Illinois Pollution Control Board has issued findings and recommendations related to the regulation of coal ash storage. The statement released says the rules "establish a comprehensive State permitting program to govern all aspects of CCR surface impoundments, including regulation of the location, design, construction, operation, closure and post-closure care, as well as the remediation of releases." [Link](#)