

ASH POND NEWSBYTES



June 2021

Dear Readers,

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

– Peter Alvey & The Roux Team

CONTAMINATION

The North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality has come to an agreement with **Duke Energy** on the state of its coal ash ponds in the state. **Duke Energy** will build three new coal ash landfills at the Allen Steam Station in Belmont, North Carolina, to house the ash which is currently in unlined ponds and basins. The deadline for this project is 2038. [Link](#)

Logansport Municipal Utilities retired the Logansport Power Generating Plant in Logansport, Indiana in 2016, but residents are now in full support of demolishing the plant completely. Asbestos-containing material is falling to the ground in areas around the plant, and potentially entering the Wabash River, creating human and environmental health hazards. [Link](#)



Logansport Power Generating Plant in Logansport, Indiana

SPECIAL REPORT

US coal-fired power generation capacity has been steadily declining in recent years, as utilities and plant owners retire coal-fired units in an effort to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and due to economic competition from gas and renewable energy resources.

Check out this data released by S&P Global Platts analytics for their North American five-year forecast. [Link](#)

CONTAMINATION, CONT.

On March 14, 2021, an **AES**-operated cargo ship named the Bridgeport departed Guayama, Puerto Rico, for Jacksonville, Florida. On March 22, the Bridgeport ran aground one mile south of the St. Johns River off the coast of Florida with 12,000 tons of coal ash on board. More than 4,000 tons of ash have been loaded onto an ocean salvage crane and taken to a landfill for disposal. Trace amounts of the ship's contents have been found on the sea floor. 8,000 tons of coal ash remain unaccounted for, and the Bridgeport Barge remains grounded in place. [Link](#)

COAL POWER PLANT ASH POND CLOSURE AND MODIFICATIONS

NRG has announced the retirement of two Chicago suburban coal-fired plants, in Waukegan and Romeoville, in 2022. These plants support 111 employees who will have the opportunity to apply to open positions within NRG. [Link](#)

DTE Energy has closed its River Rouge Power Plant in River Rouge, Michigan. This coal-fired plant began generating electricity in 1956 and produced 840 MW of power at its peak. **DTE** announced that it will close two additional plants, in St. Clair, Michigan and Trenton, Michigan, next year. [Link](#)

Florida Power & Light Co. will demolish its last coal-fired power plant in Indiantown, Florida. The plant ceased operations in December 2020. **Florida Power & Light Co.** has stated that their conversion to clean energy has saved customers more than \$11 billion in fuel costs and prevented 165 million tons of carbon emissions. [Link](#)

The removal of coal ash from **Tennessee Valley Authority's (TVA)** abandoned Allen Fossil Plant is set to begin following approval from the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC). The Allen Fossil Plant was retired in 2018 and replaced with the Allen Combined Cycle Natural Gas Plant, and a one-megawatt solar farm. [Link 1](#) [Link 2](#)

CLOSURES, CONT.

Houston-based **GenOn Holdings LLC** will shut down two generating units at the Morgantown Generating Station in Newburg, Maryland by June 2022. It also plans to close generating units at both Avon Lake Station on Lake Erie near Cleveland, Ohio, and Cheswick Station on the Allegheny River outside Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, by September 15, 2021. These units have been generating electricity since the 1970s. [Link](#)

Tampa Bay Electric Company (TECO) has announced that two of its coal units in Apollo Beach, Florida, at Big Bend Power Station, will retire soon. Big Bend Units 2 and 3 will retire in November 2022 and April 2023, respectively. These units will undergo modernization and be retrofitted with state-of-the-art combined natural gas units, capable of producing 1,090 megawatts (MW) of energy. [Link](#)

CLOSURES, CONT.

Public Service Enterprise Group (PSEG) retired its last coal-fired power plant, the 400-MW Bridgeport Harbor Station Unit 3 in Bridgeport, Connecticut, earlier this month. **PSEG** is working on selling its remaining natural gas-fired fossil fuel assets by the end of 2021. **PSEG's** future fleet will consist almost entirely of nuclear plants and offshore wind generation. Merrimack Bow Station, owned and operated by Granite Shore Power, is now the last coal-burning plant producing electricity in New England. [Link](#) [Link 2](#)

Duke Energy's Gallagher Station, a coal-fired power plant in New Albany, Indiana, was retired earlier this month. **Duke Energy** was fined in 2009 for Clean Air Act violations at the Site and was engaged in a federal lawsuit, ultimately paying a \$1.75 million civil penalty and additional amounts on environmental mitigation projects. [Link](#)



The 495-foot stack at the Florida Power & Light Plant in Indiantown, Florida

LEGAL AND REGULATORY

In central and southern Illinois, unions, lawmakers, and utility officials are concerned about the effects of the mandated 2035 coal-fired plant closures on consumers. The coalition is asking Governor Pritzker for more time to make the transition to new energy sources in a way that protects the workers and taxpayers. [Link](#)

Missouri-based **Commercial Liability Partners** and subsidiary, **New Richmond Development Corp**, are under threat of lawsuit regarding the former **Duke Energy Beckjord** Generating Station near New Richmond, Ohio. Residents have alleged that cleanup activities at Beckjord involve the illegal dumping of coal ash. The Beckford ash ponds contain more than 10 billion pounds of coal ash. [Link](#)

Illinois Attorney General (AG) Kwame Raoul and Vermillion County State's Attorney Jacqueline Lacy filed a lawsuit on June 22, 2021, against **Dynegy Midwest Generation, LLC** over "the unlawful disposal of coal ash," according to a news release from the AG's office. The property in question is **Dynegy's** former coal-fired Vermillion Power Station in Oakwood, Illinois. [Link 1](#) [Link 2](#)

A settlement was reached between **Talen Energy** and the Montana Department of Environmental Equality involving cleanup of coal ash ponds at the Colstrip Power Plant in Colstrip, Montana. Other companies with ownership in this power plant and who are subject to cleanup costs are **NorthWestern Energy**, **Puget Sound Energy**, **Avista**, **Portland General Electric**, and **PacificCorp**. [Link](#)

RENEWABLE ENERGY

TerraPower Company, owned by Bill Gates, will work with the State of Wyoming to build a Sodium reactor nuclear power plant, together with the US Department of Energy and PacifiCorp. The reactor will be built within one of four retiring coal-powered plants in the State. The goal for 2021 is to decide which of the Wyoming utility Rocky Mountain Power's plants will shut down to house the power plant: Jim Bridger near Rock Springs, Naughton in Kemmerer, Dave Johnston in Glenrock, or Wyodak near Gillette. [Link](#)

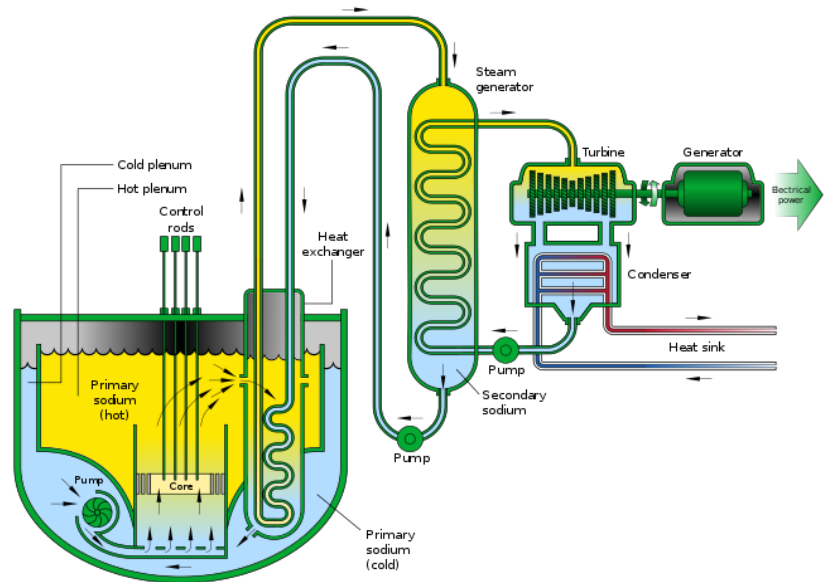


Diagram of a Sodium Reactor

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