

ASH POND NEWSBYTES



October 2021

Dear Readers,

The following is a collection of ash pond news from the month of October 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



Dallman Power Station on Lake Springfield, Springfield, IL.

COAL POWER PLANT ASH POND CLOSURE AND MODIFICATIONS

In Springfield, Illinois, **City Water, Light and Power** is retiring a coal-fired unit at the Dallman Plant. Unit 33 stopped operating several months ago after it was damaged during a storm, and it will be decommissioned a full 2 years ahead of schedule. The high estimated cost for repairs weighed into the decision to close the plant. Units 31 and 32, adjacent to 33, were decommissioned at the end of 2020. [Link](#)

In Oakley, a village in Fife, Scotland, work has begun on the **Scottish Power's** Valleyfield Ash Lagoon Restoration Project. The Comrie Colliery mine will be used as a source of 80,000 cubic meters of capping material, leaving the mine in an improved condition. Under the proposed plans, the Valleyfield Ash Lagoons will become a roosting area for estuary wildlife. [Link 1](#) [Link 2](#)

SPECIAL REPORT

According to an economic analysis by a national science advocacy nonprofit, the Union of Concerned Scientists, and the Pennsylvania-based think tank Ohio River Valley Institute, the remediation of coal ash in the Ohio River Valley would create more than \$100 million in economic activity per state. The analysis was based on public documents from utility closure plans, coal ash site conditions, economic modeling, and alternative closure plan development. One out of every five coal ash disposal sites nationwide can be found at operating or retired coal-fired power plants in the Ohio Valley Region, which includes West Virginia, Kentucky, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Indiana. [Link](#)

CLOSURES, CONT.

Northern Indiana Public Service Company LLC (NIPSCO), a subsidiary of **NiSource Inc.**, will shut down its Michigan City Generating Station between 2026 and 2028, ahead of the planned schedule. This closure will follow the shutdown of two coal-fired units at the R.M. Schahfer Generating Station in Wheatfield by the end of this year. [Link](#)

Michigan utility company **DTE Energy** will stop burning coal at its Belle River Power Plant, in St. Clair County, in December 2028. This is two years ahead of DTE's original schedule and will allow the site to be converted to a renewable power generator. DTE has already closed four coal-fired power plants in Conners Creek, Harbor Beach, Marysville, and River Rouge, Michigan. [Link](#)

LEGAL AND REGULATORY

Georgia Power's Plant Bowen, outside of Cartersville, Georgia, released 2.25 million gallons of coal ash into Euharlee Creek back in 2002. The Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) is hosting a public hearing on Georgia Power's proposed plan for the remaining toxic ash located at Plant Bowen. Part of the plan includes installing a liner at the ash pond. However, opponents of the plan are worried about the unstable terrain beneath the liner which might cause other problems. [Link](#)

After an appeal by the Sierra Club, the Georgia Court of Appeals has upheld a lower court decision allowing **Georgia Power** to collect funds needed for coal ash pond closure from their customers. Georgia Power will spend nearly \$9 billion in closure costs, with \$525 million to come from customers. [Link](#)

LEGAL AND REGULATORY

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) District of Columbia circuit court will end the suit against its approval of Oklahoma's Coal Ash Permit Plan. Challengers to the plan included the Waterkeeper Alliance, who alleged that the agency was required to sponsor public participation in state programs, and that the USEPA violated the Administrative Procedures Act as a result of lack of public participation. The USEPA has argued that it is not required to involve the public in its approval process for state-level coal ash disposal programs. [Link](#)



SPECIAL REPORT

The Prairie Research Institute Coal Ash Response Team, based in Illinois, generated a report in September 2020 reviewing the potential impacts of coal ash impoundments, summarizing federal and state laws and regulations, and providing an overview of how coal ash can be beneficially used. It is a valuable resource for understanding the components of coal combustion residuals (CCR). [Link](#)

CONTAMINATION

Diversified Energy Co. now owns over 69,000 oil wells and is the largest well owner in the United States. However, the wells purchased are well past their prime—most generate just a trickle, or nothing at all. The company claims to be able to draw more life out of these wells than what the normal oil and gas companies can do. Environmentalists worry about the leaking methane and oil from these wells that might have otherwise been plugged with cement if they hadn't found their way into Diversified's portfolio. [Link](#)



Georgia Power's Plant Scherer in Monroe County, GA.

IN OTHER NEWS

A recently published dataset from the USEPA has identified over 120,000 locations around the United States where PFAS may be handled. Oil and gas operations lead the list of industry sectors that the USEPA says may be handling PFAS chemicals. The USEPA gathered this data in 2019 to create a map of “known or potential PFAS contamination sources” to help “assess environmental trends in PFAS concentrations.” [Link](#)

The Sauk-Suiattle Indian Tribe has sued [Seattle City Light](#), alleging that the public utility’s environmental claims are deceitful and inaccurate, a.k.a. “greenwashing.” Seattle City Light uses hydroelectric dams on the Skagit River to produce hydropower electricity with no greenhouse gas emissions. However, the Sauk-Suiattle Indian Tribe claims that this practice is simultaneously harming fish populations. [Link](#)

Since the 1990s, the City of Dalton, Georgia has produced 90% of the world’s carpet products. Last year, there were various lawsuits alleging PFAS pollution of drinking water caused by the carpet manufacturing industry in Dalton. Recently a Georgia federal judge issued the Georgia PFAS case order, allowing many claims to proceed against both water districts and carpet manufacturers. Although the ruling relied on Georgia law to reach its conclusion, this decision will have ripple effects on PFAS litigation nationally. [Link](#)

In Russia’s western Ryazan province, sixteen people were killed in an explosion at a gunpowder and chemical plant. The plant is a site of the Elastik factory, which specializes in the manufacturing of industrial explosives for civilian use. The cause of the incident is under investigation. [Link](#)

IN OTHER NEWS, CONT.

Aaron Frey, Maine’s Attorney General, is requesting proposals for legal support for claims over chemical contamination in the state. Both PCBs and PFAS chemical classes are among the claims being assessed by the Attorney General. The Governor, Janet Mills, has recommended accelerating PFAS sampling and over the next two years. The Maine Department of Environmental Protection plans to sample 700 additional locations. [Link](#)

In Jiangsu, China, four people were killed in an explosion at the Jiangsu Tianjiayi chemical plant. The China Earthquake Administration reported that the intense explosion had the same power as a magnitude 2.2 earthquake. The cause of the incident is under investigation. [Link](#)

Contact Us

Roux

1200 Harger Rd.,
Suite 800

Oak Brook, IL 60523

(630) 572-3300

palvey@rouxinc.com

www.rouxinc.com



Back Lit, Business Finance and Industry, Construction Platform (via “EPA Fires Back” Article).



Clover Flat Landfill in Calistoga, CA, a USEPA identified PFAS site.