

# ASH POND NEWSBYTES



December 2022

Dear Readers,

The following is a collection of ash pond news from the month of December 2022. 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

## COAL ASH POND CLOSURE AND MODIFICATIONS

**DTE Energy** officially retired two southeastern Michigan coal plants, Trenton Channel and St. Clair, as it transitions to more clean energy. Upon these closures, DTE Energy revealed their CleanVision plan which will focus its efforts on providing electricity through solar and wind energy. To offset the coal retirements, DTE has proposed the addition of 15,400 megawatts of renewables and 1,810 megawatts of storage by 2042. [Link 1](#), [Link 2](#)

Advocates in northwestern Indiana call for **Northern Indiana Public Service Company (NIPSCO)** to do a full coal ash remediation at the site of a soon-to-close Michigan City Generating Station coal plant along Lake Michigan. Of the two million tons of coal ash at the Site, it is estimated that approximately 300,000 cubic yards will be removed from settling ponds. [Link](#)

Michigan utility **Consumers Energy** has hired consulting firm Percheron LLC to determine if property at two retiring coal plants, J.H. Campbell and D.E. Karn Generating Complex, could be suitable for solar and battery storage. This is after Consumers Energy revealed their goal of building 8,000 megawatts (MW) of solar power by 2040. [Link](#)



DTE Energy St. Claire Coal-fired Plant. [Link](#)

## COAL ASH POND CLOSURE AND MODIFICATIONS

Steam Towers from the **Owensboro Municipal Utilities'** Elmer Smith Station in Daviess County, Kentucky have been demolished following the closure of the power plant in 2020.

**LG&E** and **KU Energy** plan to retire four coal-fired generating stations, including two units at Jefferson County's Mill Creek generating station due to cost efficiencies. The utilities plan to build two new 621-megawatt natural gas units and to increase their solar portfolio by around 1,000 megawatts to supplement the closures. One of the natural gas units will be constructed on their existing Mill Creek property while the other will be constructed on their E.W. Brown facility. The utility anticipates that these proposed changes will decrease their carbon emissions by 25% from current levels. [Link](#)



Steam Towers from Elmer Smith Station. [Link](#)

## IN OTHER NEWS

The **United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA)** Region 7 has made progress in removing lead from regions in Southeast Missouri. The USEPA will continue to help restore areas in Southeast Missouri while working with communities to provide health education and safe practice to reduce lead exposure. [Link](#)

In the San Fernando Valley, California, drought has led the **Los Angeles Department of Water and Power** to begin developing a treatment system for groundwater in the San Fernando Valley groundwater basin. The \$600 million treatment system will provide three facilities to filter a plume of contaminants in the groundwater below the city. This treatment system will provide access to up to 87,000 acre-feet of water per year. [Link](#)

In Pennsylvania, a leak from a vent on an **Equitrans Midstream Corp.** natural gas storage well was discovered in early November 2022. The leak lasted for 13 days and released more than one billion cubic feet of methane storage to the atmosphere. [Link](#)

## SPECIAL REPORT

The **Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration** have recorded approximately 500 incidents in which pipelines have spilled crude oil over the past decade. A graphic of these can be seen [here](#).

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## RENEWABLE ENERGY

**Logan Generating Station** was New Jersey's last coal-fired power plant as it was demolished in December of this year. In 2018, **Starwood Energy Group**, a renewable energy investor, bought out Logan and Chambers, a nearby coal plant with the motive to convert them into zero-carbon facilities. Specifically, the plan is to use the facility for battery storage and to create electricity for citizens of New Jersey through cheap renewable energy such as wind. Six hundred twenty-five pounds of dynamite were used for the demolition, and a variety of hazardous chemicals were disposed of. The demolition contractor expects to recycle approximately 98% of the 10,000 tons of concrete, 10,000 tons of metals, and 3,000 tons of asphalt from the plant. Although the initial process of transforming the facility will be environmentally difficult, the zero-carbon power plant will eliminate 3.9 million tons of carbon dioxide emissions. [Link](#)

**DTE Energy** has stated plans to discontinue their coal generation by 2035 in favor of natural gas. In addition, **AES** wishes to repower their coal units in a similar fashion. According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration, more than 22,000 MW of new gas generation is planned for the United States by 2028. [Link](#)



*Logan Generating Station prior to controlled demolition. [Link](#)*

## SPECIAL REPORT

**TCE Energy** has recovered 2,598 barrels of crude oil, specifically tar sand crude oil, from the 14,000-barrel (600,000-gallon) spill in a creek located in Washington County, Kansas. This spill has been marked as the largest on the Keystone Pipeline system since 2013 and occurred at a location on the pipeline where the pipe was routed under the creek bed. The majority of the spill has not been recovered and it is anticipated that the "sticky" tar sand crude will create difficulties in cleaning. TCE Energy utilized booms to contain the spill and constructed dams to prevent the spills from moving to other waterways. Regulators have stated that operations cannot continue for the 96-mile segment of Keystone pipeline until the cause of the spill is identified and the pipe has been repaired. While the cause of the spill is unknown, lawmakers have stated concerns that the pipeline was operating at 80% of the maximum pressure, rather than the normal operation of 72% capacity. Over 300 people are on-site for the cleanup and USEPA officials are on-site supervising the cleanup. The USEPA officials have announced that the spill has been contained and will not impact local drinking water wells or reach the Little Blue River. [Link 1](#), [Link 2](#), [Link 3](#)