

ASH POND NEWSBYTES



January 2023

Dear Readers,

The following is a collection of ash pond news from the month of January 2023. 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



San Miguel Electric Cooperative's coal mine facility. [Link](#)

LEGAL AND REGULATORY

The Hoosier Environmental Council (HEC) are expected to lobby in the 2023 Indiana legislative session for improvements on oversight of coal ash disposal sites, creating tax credits for wetland protection, and to adopt a climate action plan. It is expected that a bill addressing coal ash disposal will be discussed in the session. [Link](#)

The **USEPA** has issued six proposal determinations which deny coal facilities requests to continue disposing of coal combustion residuals into unlined surface impoundments. The USEPA is proposing to deny the applications for the following facilities: Belle River Power Plant, China Township, Michigan; Coal Creek Station, Underwood, North Dakota; Conemaugh Generating Station, New Florence, Pennsylvania; Coronado Generating Station, St. Johns, Arizona; Martin Lake Steam Electric Station, Tatum, Texas; and the Monroe Power Plant, Monroe, Michigan. The USEPA is proposing to deny these applications due to noncompliance with coal combustion residual regulations. [Link](#)

RENEWABLE ENERGY

Xcel Energy is planning to build a 10-megawatt battery complex near the Comanche coal power plant to store energy from renewable solar and wind energy. The Comanche coal power plant is scheduled for retirement by 2030 and the battery system is anticipated to go online in 2025. The iron-air batteries used in this program will be a part of an Xcel Energy pilot program and will be enough to power 2,000 homes for up to five days. Iron-air batteries take in oxygen from the air when discharging and in the process convert iron metal to rust. When charging, the electric current in the batteries converts the rust back into iron and the battery discharges oxygen. [Link](#)

CONTAMINATION

South of Pleasanton, Texas, **San Miguel Electric Cooperative** has purchased 8,000 acres of private ranch land for \$38 million. The company mines more than 3 million tons of lignite annually and will use the land for coal mining operations. Prior to the sale, various lawsuits between the former property owners and San Miguel Electric Cooperative occurred regarding contamination at the Site. [Link](#)

Dominion Energy has received approval to remove 3 million tons of coal ash from ponds at their former Chesapeake Energy Center coal plant in Virginia. Dominion Energy expects the cleanup of the Chesapeake Energy Center to cost \$225 million and estimates completion by 2034. [Link](#)

IN OTHER NEWS

A chemical fire at the **Carus Chemical Plant** in La Salle, Illinois has been put out following an explosion in early January. The chemical plant manufactures potassium permanganate and following the fire, residents have stated concerns over potential chemicals on their properties. [Link](#)

The Bremmer Base Tunnel is currently being built under the Alps. The tunnel will consist of a 64-kilometer-long track with two 8-meter diameter borings and will be used as a railway between Austria and Italy. The tunnel uses a variety of boring methods due to complex fault zones and is anticipated to be completed by 2032. [Link](#)

A **Transneft** pipeline leak near the city of Omsk, Russia resulted in an oil spill spanning 200 square meters. [Link](#)



Rock to be excavated with drill and blast for the Bremmer Base Tunnel. [Link](#)

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COAL ASH POND CLOSURE AND MODIFICATIONS

Ameren Energy's smallest and oldest coal plant, the Meramec Energy Center, closed at the end of 2022. The Site is located in south St. Louis County in Oakville, Missouri and is the first of three planned closures for Ameren. Redevelopment for the plant has not been stated, although Ameren has plans to keep coal ash buried at the Site. [Link](#)



Ameren's Meramec Energy Center coal ash pond. [Link](#)

COAL ASH POND CLOSURE AND MODIFICATIONS

In Pleasant Prairie, Wisconsin, the village board has approved plans for the redevelopment of a former **We Energies** power plant site. The redevelopment will consist of the construction of three or more commercial buildings, including an industrial park. The development value is expected to be \$187 million by 2029. [Link](#)

The **E.D. Edwards** coal power plant in Bartonville, Illinois has closed as a result of a 2019 federal consent decree setting a Clean Air Act lawsuit. The plant owner, **Vistra Energy**, plans to convert the power plant to house 37 megawatts of battery storage. Vistra Energy will invest \$47 million for the facility and will be eligible for Energy Transition Act grants. Across Illinois, Vistra has plans to convert nine coal plants to 350 megawatts of solar and 150 megawatts of battery storage. [Link](#)

In Stratton, Ohio, the **W.H. Sammis** coal power plant will close by mid-July and **Energy Harbor** has announced plans to lay off 140 workers prior to the closure. [Link](#)

The **U.S. Energy Information Administration** estimates that wind and solar power will account for 16% of total energy generation in 2023, and by 2025, solar is expected to add 72 gigawatts of power to the US. By 2025, total renewable energy is expected to account for 32.5% of power generation across the US. [Link](#)

The **San Juan Generating Station** in New Mexico is under review through House Bill 142 for steps toward cleanup and restoration of the power plant. House Bill 142 provides New Mexico's Department of Environment and the Energy, Mineral, and Natural Resources Department \$700,000 to ensure that demolition of the plant does not release chemicals into waterways or the environment. [Link](#)