

Stop Louisville Gas & Electric E, E.ON, and Kentucky Utilities from endangering the Ohio River and our drinking water.

Coal combustion waste is a toxic accident waiting to happen: In December 2008, 5.4 million gallons of toxic coal waste gushed from a wet storage pond in Kingston, Tennessee, burying surrounding rivers and streams six feet deep in sludge. Three weeks later, another waste pond sprung a leak and sent thousands of gallons more of hazardous waste into Widows Creek in Alabama. Slow-motion disasters are even more common: communities across the country have had their drinking water fouled by cancer-causing leaks from coal waste dumps.

Now, as a massive new coal power plant rises at the Trimble County Generating Station, just upstream of Louisville, we have to stop the same disasters from happening all over again.

We need to protect our rivers and our drinking water from Trimble. The Kentucky Division of Water is considering whether or not to let this dangerous plant dump millions of gallons of coal waste into the Ohio River – and to store millions more in a leaky, unlined wet pond just yards from the river. Come to a hearing on the Division's draft permit for the facility on November 5<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm at the Morgan Community Center, 147 Victory Ave, in Bedford.

Here's what you need to know:

- LG&E, working with other utilities, is building a huge new coal power plant at the Trimble County Generating Station. It plans to dump portions of the new plant's millions of tons of coal waste into wet ponds, a new landfill, and, shockingly, directly into the Ohio River.
- Coal combustion waste is a toxic slurry of arsenic, mercury, lead, and other heavy metals and cancer-causing chemicals. According to the Environmental Protection Agency, people living close to unlined wet waste ponds have a 1 in 50 chance of getting cancer. Kids living near ponds that mix coal ash and other combustion waste can be exposed to *9 times* the federal limit for lead, which causes life-long brain damage.
- LG&E plans to dump 2.1 million gallons of wet coal ash sludge into Trimble's decades-old wet storage pond, just yards from the Ohio River. That pond has no protective bottom liner to stop toxic fluids from leaching into groundwater and the Ohio. Its sides are already showing signs of erosion and EPA has determined the pond to be a significant hazard if it fails.
- The waste pond – which would attempt to contain wet ash behind earthen dikes – is similar in design to the pond that failed catastrophically in Kingston. Wet storage is antiquated and dangerous. No one should be building new ash storage ponds.

- Even worse, LG&E plans to discharge an additional 2.7 million gallons of scrubber sludge into a pond and then straight to the Ohio River – without any other treatment. Scrubber sludge is waste material from the plant's air pollution control devices, and so contains toxins that would otherwise be going up the smokestack, including heavy metals, acids, sulfates, and dissolved solids that can foul rivers and streams. By dumping this waste from the smokestack, LG&E is just moving poison from the air to the water and making us drink it.
- Despite these dangers, the Kentucky Division of Water so far has completely failed to limit toxic heavy metal discharges from Trimble's waste, requires no groundwater monitoring, and allows infrequent and inadequate water testing. The public deserves real protection.
- Many power plants use carefully-lined dry landfills and zero-discharge waste systems that dramatically limit public health risks. There's no reason that Trimble can't do the same – and it will have to, if we demand a safer course.
- EPA is moving to protect the public from this dangerous waste, by formally designating coal ash as hazardous, issuing new design standards for waste disposal sites, and updating decades-old water quality protection standards – but none of that work will be done before the end of 2009. LG&E is trying to squeeze under the wire and get its permits before necessary new protections are put into place.
- To add insult to injury, the utilities want to pass the cost for this public health disaster onto the ratepayers. LG&E and Kentucky Utilities are already petitioning to bill consumers for the \$25.3 million ash pond expansion– and for an additional \$94.04 million to build a massive new dry landfill once the ash pond is filled to the brim.

We need to tell the power companies that they can't make us pay to poison ourselves. Otherwise, we're all at risk: Coal waste threatens water all over Kentucky. From the Smith power plant, which would dump million of pounds of toxic ash near the Kentucky River, just above Lexington, to the Cash Creek and NewGas plants, which imperil the Green River above Henderson, to other plants, and leaking mines and dumps all over the Commonwealth, coal pollution threatens the water we drink and the streams we love.

It's time to take a stand. Come to the public hearing and make clear that we won't let this dangerous permit issue.