



# EPA Proposed Decision at the Waukegan Generating Station Waukegan, IL

Waukegan Coal Ash Community Meeting  
June 27, 2023

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# Agenda

**Purpose:** Provide background information on the Coal Combustion Residuals (CCR) Program and the Agency's proposed decision regarding the Waukegan Generating Station.

- ▶ CCR Rule Background
- ▶ Part A Process
- ▶ Waukegan Generating Station Overview
- ▶ EPA's Proposed Decision
- ▶ How to Submit Public Comment

# Coal Combustion Residuals



- ▶ Produced from the burning of coal to make electricity
- ▶ One of the largest US industrial waste streams
- ▶ First federal CCR regulations established in 2015

# 2015 CCR Final Rule

- ▶ Rule establishes a comprehensive regulatory program to address risks
- ▶ Establish minimum national criteria for existing and new CCR landfills, surface impoundments and lateral expansions of these units
- ▶ Public Website Requirements

# What is Part A?

- ▶ CCR Part A Final Rule published in 2020
- ▶ Requires unlined surface impoundments to close
- ▶ Allows facilities to request extension to cease receipt of waste
  - ▶ Request must outline plan for alternative capacity
  - ▶ Facility must be in compliance with CCR rule



# Waukegan Generating Station

Greenwood Ave

Lake Michigan

North Shore Water  
Reclamation District

Google Earth



1000 ft

# Site Overview

- ▶ Owned and Operated by Midwest Generation (MWG)
- ▶ Retired coal-fired boilers in June 2022
- ▶ 2 unlined CCR surface impoundments
- ▶ Closure required by CCR Part A rule



# MWG's Part A Request

- ▶ Use East Ash Pond until alternative capacity is created
  - ▶ Repurpose West Ash Pond
  - ▶ Remove CCR from West Ash Pond and decontaminate liner
- ▶ Once new capacity is complete, close East Ash Pond

**MWG**

Midwest Generation, LLC  
Waukegan Generating Station

Demonstration for a  
Site-Specific Alternative  
Deadline to Initiate Closure

Report SL-015556

Revision 0

November 30, 2020

Issue Purpose: Use

Project No.: 12661-098

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Chicago, IL 60603-5780 USA  
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# EPA's Proposed Decision

- ▶ EPA proposing to deny request because MWG failed to meet the Part A rule requirements:
  - ▶ Inadequate plan for the alternative capacity
  - ▶ Closure plan requirements
  - ▶ Groundwater monitoring requirements

# How to Submit Public Comments?

▶ Public Comment Period: July 5 to August 4, 2023

▶ Online:

<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2023/05/18/2023-10048/hazardous-and-solid-waste-management-system-disposal-of-coal-combustion-residuals-from-electric>

▶ Mail:

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, EPA Docket Center, Office of  
Land and Emergency Management

Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OLEM-2022-0333

Mail Code 28221T

1200 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20460

# More Information

- ▶ EPA's CCR Program homepage:  
<https://www.epa.gov/coalash>
- ▶ EPA's CCR Part A website:  
<https://www.epa.gov/coalash/coal-combustion-residuals-ccr-part-implementation>
- ▶ Waukegan Generating Station's publicly accessible CCR website:  
<https://www.nrg.com/legal/coal-combustion-residuals.html>

# Thank you!



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