

Join the Twitter Blitz to #Kick Coal Ash on Thursday, June 21st, 2012!

Coal ash – the toxic leftovers from burning coal to produce electricity – is contaminating our water with arsenic, lead, mercury and other hazardous chemicals. June 21st marks two years since the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) proposed minimum safeguards for coal ash disposal. Unfortunately Congress has been working hard to make sure there are never federal regulations to protect communities from this toxic waste. Most recently the House of Representatives approved a massive Transportation Bill which included an amendment that would prevent EPA from ever setting enforceable safeguards for coal ash disposal.

Help us tell Congress to kick coal ash out of the transportation bill and allow the White House to finalize a strong and protective coal ash rule that will safeguard public health and the environment. Please join us in this important effort—and **help spread the word by forwarding this message to your networks, friends, family...everyone! We want to show Congress and the Administration that support for a strong coal ash rule is broad and deep. Toxic coal ash should not be allowed to poison our drinking water supplies. Coal ash disposal is a national problem that demands a national solution.**

General Guidelines for the Twitter Blitz:

1. This effort will start at 9:00 am Eastern time on 6/21 and continue over the course of the day. It's good policy to schedule tweets until at least 5:00 pm Pacific.
2. At 9 am start the Twitter Blitz with a simple tweet from your organization's Twitter account (if you have a personal account, use it too) about what today's activity is all about – encouraging the Obama Administration (@WhiteHouse) to protect public health and the environment from toxic coal ash pollution. *(Important note: We are not using @BarackObama. That is a 2012 re-election campaign account)*

Kickoff Tweet: We're tweeting today as part of a #kickcoalah blitz to urge #Congress and @WhiteHouse to protect communities from toxic #coalah

3. Then proceed to send out tweets about the dangers of coal ash waste over the course of the day (see Sample Tweets below), **always using the hashtag #kickcoalah** in your tweets (See Hashtags below).
4. Follow the Twitter Blitz's progress throughout the day by clicking on the **hashtag #kickcoalah** where you'll be able to see all the tweets from the day. This is a great place to find clever tweets that can be retweeted.
5. Whenever possible, please make tweets state-specific—referencing a favorite local waterbody that has been contaminated by coal ash or referencing the number of coal ash ponds or contaminated cases in your state. **Post a picture of a coal ash site in your community.**
6. Respond and re-tweet your followers' tweets about the dangers of coal ash.
7. If you have further questions, please contact Michael Kelly with Clean Water Action (mkelly@cleanwater.org; 202-895-0420 x 184, @MichaelEdKelly).

Hashtags & Twitter Handles

1. **Always use #kickcoalash in your tweets.**
2. Since we are tweeting the Administration, whenever possible **make sure @WhiteHouse is included in your tweets** (*Important note: We are not using @BarackObama because it is the 2012 re-election campaign account.*). Where appropriate use @EPAgov, @LisaPJackson, or @JonCarson44 (See Sample Tweets later)
3. We also want to target our Senators and Representatives, especially those who serve on the Transportation Bill conference committee (see list of Twitter handles for select elected officials below). Most Senators and Representatives have their Twitter handles posted on their websites.
4. Other hash tags to consider using, **in addition to #kickcoalash** (space permitting): #coalash, #ProtectCleanWater, #CleanWater, #EPA, #Congress

Twitter Handles for Select Transportation Bill Conferees

Senators

Bill Nelson (FL): @SenBillNelson

Barbara Boxer (CA): @SenatorBoxer

Jay Rockefeller (WV): @SenRockefeller

Tim Johnson (SD): @SenJohnsonSD

Chuck Schumer (NY): @ChuckSchumer

Robert Menendez (NJ): @SenatorMenendez

Dick Durbin (IL): @SenatorDurbin

U.S. Representatives

Nick Rahall (W.Va.): @HouseTransInf

Peter DeFazio (Ore.): @RepPeterDeFazio

Jerry Costello (Ill.): @JerryCostello

Jerrold Nadler (N.Y.): @RepJerryNadler

Corrine Brown (Fla.): @RepCorrineBrown

Elijah Cummings (Md.): @OversightDems

Leonard Boswell (Iowa): @LeonardBoswell

Tim Bishop (N.Y.): @TimBishopNY

Henry Waxman (Calif.): @EnergyCommerce

Ed Markey (Mass.): @MarkeyMemo

Eddie Bernice Johnson (Texas): @RepEBJ

Earl Blumenauer (Ore.): @repblumenauer

Eleanor Holmes Norton (D.C.): @EleanorNorton

Coal Ash News Stories and other web resources (with condensed links for twitter):

PA and WV –

KDKA TV: LBR NOI

<http://goo.gl/AxBqH>

KDKA TV: LBR Damage, Neighbors Fight Expansion

<http://goo.gl/j5PDd>

Huffington Post: Coal Ash Fight Targets LBR Slurry Pond

<http://goo.gl/7KNxu>

POLITICO: Freshmen Learn to Use Bills the DC Way

<http://goo.gl/Lzqjz>

140 Public Health, Environmental Groups' Letter:

<http://goo.gl/mlE6K>

EJ, Trash Talk: Is Poisoned Water Necessary for Jobs?

<http://goo.gl/Ux52l>

Earthjustice map of contaminated sites:

<http://tinyurl.com/7a75vg2>

ALEC and coal ash:

<http://tinyurl.com/6ql2gkj>

Dr. Lynn Ringenberg OpEd:

<http://tinyurl.com/cz852yx>

Hill citizen blog on Little Blue:

<http://tinyurl.com/6qsm4k4>

NEW Sample tweets

Kickoff Tweet: We're tweeting today as part of a #kickcoalash blitz to urge #Congress and @WhiteHouse to protect communities from toxic #coalash

2 yrs past & @WhiteHouse has yet to #kickcoalash. Communities near Little Blue need protections now:
<http://tinyurl.com/cvv336o>

Today citizens around the country are asking @WhiteHouse and #Congress to #kickcoalash: <http://tinyurl.com/d43f8ap>
(or add link to press release on local event or OpEds, etc.)

#Congress should protect people, not #coalash polluters! @WhiteHouse please #kickcoalash out of my community

ALEC thinks toxic #coalash is good for us: <http://tinyurl.com/6ql2gkj> @WhiteHouse pls #kickcoalash out of our communities

Americans want strong coal ash protections! @WhiteHouse nearly 200 contaminated sites are too many:
<http://tinyurl.com/7a75vg2> #kickcoalash

Tell #Congress to #kickcoalash out of the Transportation Bill: <http://tinyurl.com/7tvqboe> @WhiteHouse pls protect us from toxic #coalash

140 orgs urged #Congress to #kickcoalash out of Transportation Bill: <http://tinyurl.com/c7ke48d> RT if you agree!

RT if you want @WhiteHouse #Congress to #kickcoalash out of our water & communities

WV residents describe horror of living near toxic #coalash dump: <http://tinyurl.com/6qsm4k4> RT if you want @EPAgov rules to #kickcoalash

Yuck, selenium in #coalash spawns two-headed fish! <http://tinyurl.com/couhvaz> @whitehouse @EPAgov #Congress it's time to #kickcoalash

Florida's water is being poisoned by toxic #coalash: <http://tinyurl.com/cz852yx> @SenBillNelson pls #kickcoalash out of the transportation bill!

Has your community been poisoned by #coal ash? Find out here: <http://tinyurl.com/7a75vg2> and join the fight to #kickcoalash!

Sample tweets from our February Coal Ash Twitter storm

@whitehouse Coal ash stored in 100's of ponds & landfills & @EPAgov doesn't even know how much. When is it too much to ignore??? #kickcoalash

@whitehouse Enuff #coalash stored in ponds (the WORST way) to fill 1,021 Empire State Buildings and still no fed protections! #kickcoalash

@WhiteHouse American needs strong coal ash protections! Nearly 200 contaminated sites are too many:
<http://tinyurl.com/7a75vg2> #kickcoalash

@whitehouse #coalash in ponds can fill 363 #DallasCowboys stadiums! That's alot of unregulated waste #kickcoalash

@whitehouse what's full of mercury, lead, selenium, cadmium and other cancer-causing metals? #coalash #kickcoalash
Federal #Coalash protections are needed @whitehouse! 195+ cases of water contamination already found. How many more are there? #kickcoalash

#coalash in ponds (THE WORST KIND) would flow over Niagara Falls for 4 days straight! 37 BILLION cubic ft. of unregulated waste #kickcoalash

Over 282 BILLION gallons of coal ash in ponds doesn't even count what's in landfills and mines. @whitehouse we need safeguards! #kickcoalash

Put #coalash in ponds into swimming pools and it would take #michaelhelps 23 years to swim through it. Yikes!
@whitehouse, #kickcoalash

Household garbage is better regulated than #coalash. 141 million tons generated annually & no federal safeguards
@JonCarson44, #kickcoalash

@whitehouse Mercury and arsenic in my drinking water? We need federal protections for coal ash now! #kickcoalash

@whitehouse The US has enuff toxic #coalash to flow over Niagara Falls for over4 days straight. That's WAY too much coal ash! #kickcoalash

@whitehouse End the 2nd largest industrial waste stream in the US! @JonCarson44, @EPAGov #kickcoalash

@JonCarson44, What's full of Arsenic, Lead, Mercury, Selenium and is poisoning our water? #kickcoalash@whitehouse

@whitehouse What does the US produce 140 million tons of each year? #coalash #kickcoalash

@whitehouse What could fill 426,780 Olympic sized pools each year? #coalash #kickcoalash

@whitehouse Want this in your backyard? <http://www.nytimes.com/2008/12/25/us/25sludge.html> #kickcoalash

@JonCarson44, my kitchen trash is WAY cleaner than #coalash. @Whitehouse we need regulations now! #kickcoalash

Our clean energy future starts now. Get rid of toxic chems #kickcoalash out to prevent health problems and water contamination

Arsenic and Chromium must not be allowed to pollute our waterways! #kickcoalash to prevent drinking water contamination

The @whitehouse must take a stand to prevent ANY potential slurry spill. Help #kickcoalash to stop future Kingston, TN disasters

Clean water for all, plain and simple. #kickcoalash now! @whitehouse @JonCarson44

Do the math, Chromium 6+Arsenic+human does not equal a healthy future. #kickcoalash @whitehouse and @JonCarson44

Health and Safety is not a radical notion made up by your mom and pop. #kickcoalash to protect me and my children.

Cleanwateraction.org | [@CleanH2OAction](https://twitter.com/CleanH2OAction) | [Facebook.com/CleanWaterAction](https://www.facebook.com/CleanWaterAction)

Stop the human science experiments and #kickcoalash from the chem lab!@whitehouse@EPAgov

@JonCarson44 what makes you dizzy, nauseous, and dirty? Living near a #coalash dump. #kickcoalash@whitehouse
Friends don't let friends dump #coalash. @whitehouse give us a rule in 2012. #kickcoalash.

State Specific Tweets

CO:

@whitehouse Protect our Colorado waters Protect our Colorado communities #kickcoalash

ALL in Colorado agree – Clean water is our priority - @whitehouse help us fight #coalash

#kickcoalash @whitehouse the problem is real <http://tinyurl.com/6wm7zbc>

Colorado says no to mercury and arsenic in our drinking water @whitehouse #kickcoalash

FL:

@whitehouse, Gators don't like #coalash! Get it cleaned up in FL and protect our precious waters. #kickcoalash

6.1 million tons of #coalash every year in FL! Too many gaps remain in how much is poisoning our waters. @whitehouse, #kickcoalash

@whitehouse No FL rules for #coalash though it's full of mercury, arsenic, lead etc. household trash is better regulated! Let's #kickcoalash

MA:

3 ft of #coalash sat in the drinking water reservoir for 80K people in MA! @whitehouse we need national rules! #kickcoalash

@whitehouse #Massachusetts makes how many tons of #coalash? More than 10 times the capacity of #Fenwaypark #kickcoalash

#Massachusetts has an 85-year-old #coalash pond. That's decades older than the #newenglandpatriots. @whitehouse #kickcoalash

Salem #Massachusetts is not only where the witches died. #coalash leaked into the water there @whitehouse #kickcoalash

MD:

#Ravens fans what's worse than #RickyWilliams leaving football? MD's got 1.9 million tons of #coalash. @whitehouse #kickcoalash

#Maryland citizens tell @whitehouse no more #coalash. 4,000 gallons spilled into the North Branch Potomac River is too much. #kickcoalash

MI:

Arsenic, boron and mercury don't belong in Saginaw Bay. @whitehouse we need strong safeguards to protect Bay City's drinking water from toxic #coalash #kickcoalash

Michigan citizens want @whitehouse to #kickcoalash out of Lake Huron:

<http://michiganmessenger.com/35229/group-epa-must-act-on-coal-ash-because-consumers-energy-is-polluting-lake-huron> @lisapjackson @JonCarson44

MN:

10,000 lakes means 10,000 responsibilities.#kickcoalash to protect MN waters from dangerous chemicals.@whitehouse @AmyKlobuchar@alfranken

#kickcoalash to protect MN lakes from the dangers of 30yr old #Coal ash slurry pond failure.@whitehouse@AmyKlobuchar@alfranken

We must #kickcoalash in MN.Unregulated #coalash is a danger to our health and lakes. @whitehouse

Big Stone Power Plant Coal Ash polluted groundwater in SD. Now MN gives Big Stone City drinking water.#kickcoalash@whitehouse

@EPAGov says #coalash ponds in MN are in "poor" condition. #kickcoalash to prevent a toxic disaster! @whitehouse

PA:

@whitehouse almost all PA #coalash ponds are over 35 years old; one is 60 years old and still no fed safeguards. #kickcoalash

PA is the biggest #coalash producer @whitehouse. 15.4 million tons of #coalash per year and none of it is federally protected. #kickcoalash

31 #coalash ponds in PA at 7 plants. One of the biggest in the country is just outside #Pittsburgh. @whitehouse, #kickcoalash

TX:

@whitehouse How about some mercury and arsenic with your football? Enuff #Texas #coalash to fill four #DallasCowboys stadiums. #kickcoalash

@whitehouse #Texas is runner up for this dubious prize: second-highest generator of #coalash #kickcoalash

@whitehouse #Longhorn fans need a mercury fix? Drive to La Grange. All the #coalash you could want. #kickcoalash

VA:

FORE! VA golf course or #coalash dump site? <http://tinyurl.com/n972yy> @whitehouse we need federal protections! #kickcoalash

VA in top 20 #coalash producing states, with 2 federal Superfund sites. @whitehouse Who needs fed rules? VA does! #kickcoalash

100% of all arsenic, selenium and chromium released to VA land comes from #coalash. That's too much poison @whitehouse. #kickcoalash