

CCB Placement in Texas Mining Activities

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ABSTRACT

The talk will cover the use of coal combustion products (CCPs) in the reclamation of large mines and the pending Texas initiative aimed at clarifying and streamlining the regulatory process governing the use of CCPs and disposal of Coal Combustion By-Products (CCBs) at Texas mines. The numerous beneficial purposes for which CCPs can be used at a mine in both the active mining operation and during the reclamation process will be addressed and will include: construction and maintenance of haul roads; ancillary roads; pit ramps; equipment pads; drainage control structures and erosion control structures; and for use as fill material to achieve Approximate Original Contours (AOC) in reclamation activities.

The current status of regulations governing these activities at the State and Federal level will be discussed, with an emphasis on the on-going Federal evaluation of the need (or lack thereof) for Federal regulation of CCP mine site uses.

Finally, the State-level rulemaking initiated by Texas coal-ash producers and users to create a regulatory framework that facilitates the beneficial use of CCPs by recognizing the potential beneficial uses for CCPs at Texas mines during operations and as a component of the reclamation process will be discussed. The key issues that have arisen in the pending rulemaking and their resolution will be presented. The talk will conclude with why it is critical that all mining States have explicit rules capable of being reviewed by the Federal government as EPA and OSM finalize their assessment of the existing regulatory framework.

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