

Indiana Experiences Using Coal Ash in Mining Activities

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ABSTRACT

The Indiana General Assembly exempted coal combustion waste (CCW) from regulation by the Solid Waste Management Board of the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) in 1988, when the disposal facility is regulated under a Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act permit. Annually, it is estimated that Indiana generates as much as 7 million tons of Coal Combustion By-Products (CCBP). During the 15 years since authority for CCW disposal at surface coal mine sites was initiated, the State has generated somewhere between 90 and 105 million tons of CCBP. During this same period, a cumulative total of approximately 7 million tons of CCW's have been disposed at Indiana surface coal mines. Regardless of this low percentage of CCBP's placed at Indiana mines, the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Division of Reclamation has worked hard to develop a program that ensures adequate controls and safeguards that are protective of the public and the environment. The program contains three different waste characterization tests prior to disposal for as long as disposal continues. These include: (1) hydrologic and geologic site characterization, (2) performance surface and groundwater monitoring during and after waste placement, and (3) siting criteria. This presentation will discuss the requirements, philosophy, and rationale of the Indiana program.

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