



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

APR 30 2009

THE ADMINISTRATOR

Mr. Eric Schaeffer
Executive Director
Environmental Integrity Project
1920 L Street, N.W., Suite 800
Washington, D.C. 20036

Dear Mr. ^{Eric}Schaeffer:

Thank you for your letter of March 2, 2009, in which you and the other signatories express concerns about coal combustion residues. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency recognizes the potential for public health and environmental impacts associated with these materials.

In the wake of the December 2008 Tennessee Valley Authority Kingston coal ash slurry spill, I have made the safe management of CCRs a top priority. First, we began an information collection initiative on March 9, 2009, under Section 104 (e) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act. We sent 162 letters to utility-operated power plants that employ wet handling of CCRs, seeking information that would enable us to prioritize visits we intend to take to assess the structural integrity of the impoundments.

Second, EPA is moving aggressively to develop national regulations addressing the disposal of CCRs. In developing these regulations, we will carefully consider the points in your letter, as well as the model regulations submitted in January 2007 by the coalition of environmental groups that you mentioned. EPA anticipates having a proposed rule ready for public comment by the end of this year.

Thank you again for bringing your concerns to my attention. If you have any further concerns or questions, please contact Matt Hale, Director of the Office of Resource Conservation and Recovery, at (703) 308-8895.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lisa P. Jackson".

Lisa P. Jackson