

TALKING POINTS:

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Concerning Regulation of Coal Combustion Waste

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1) **Coal combustion waste is a toxic waste.** Coal combustion waste is causing serious damage to the environment, ecosystems, aquatic life, livestock, people and their water supplies where ever it's been disposed. The **purpose of RCRA is to prevent that damage,** to prevent imminent and substantial endangerment to people and the environment. Failure to do so is what has lead to the legacy of superfund sites throughout America and the tremendous costs necessary to contain the pollution at those sites and clean them up.

2) **Damage from coal combustion waste is pervasive.** Wherever we have established monitoring that can tell what coal combustion waste is doing in the environment, we have found that this damage is occurring. Not only to water supplies, but to fish, amphibians, and other aquatic and bird life that live in the vicinity of coal combustion waste sites. Inadequate monitoring or the absence of monitoring entirely is only allowing this damage to occur unnoticed. Some of the worse damage is occurring at dry sites, such as the golf course at Chesapeake, VA, the quarries at Gambrils, MD and the landfill in Pines, IN.

3) **The damage from coal combustion waste is insidious and occurs from multiple constituents.** Selenium is a classic red-flag contaminant in this damage, but the arsenic, vanadium, thallium, lead, cadmium, antimony, chromium, boron, nickel and molybdenum and other metals as well as the pH, sulfate, chloride, and other salts are also concentrated and leachable in coal combustion waste and cause serious damage. Not only to water supplies, but to fish, amphibians, reptiles and other aquatic life as well as bird life, mammals and livestock that live or graze in the vicinity of coal combustion waste sites.

4) **The cost to clean up damage from coal combustion waste dwarfs the cost to prevent the damage.** The cost to clean up this damage is a huge liability that RCRA was passed to ensure that taxpayers, our government and the public in America were not saddled with. The TVA cleanup is the classic example but its just one and won't be the last unless we put minimum requirements in place that states have to meet to prevent this damage. This liability will only increase as more emission controls increase the toxicity and volume of coal combustion wastes. Requiring the industry instead of taxpayers to pay to prevent this pollution from occurring NOW is the only means for keeping this liability from mushrooming. Such regulation will also encourage more recycling of coal combustion waste than has ever occurred to date.