

Date: _____

Governor Bruce Rauner
Office of the Governor
207 State House
Springfield, IL 62706

Director Alec Messina
Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
1021 North Grand Ave. East
P.O. Box 19276
Springfield, IL 62794

Subject: Dynegy-Midwest Generation's closure plan for three coal ash pits in the floodplain of of the Middle Fork of the Vermilion River, Vermilion County

Dear Governor Rauner and Director Messina:

I am writing as one of a growing number of citizens concerned over the presence of a significant health and safety threat to the Middle Fork of the Vermilion River, Illinois' only National Scenic River.

In 2011 Dynegy closed its coal fired power plant in Vermilion county, leaving in place three toxic coal ash pits immediately adjacent to the river. These pits lie immediately upstream from Kickapoo State Recreation Area and just 12 miles from the City of Danville. All three are within the floodplain of the river. Two are unlined and have been shown to be leaching toxic pollutants into surface and groundwater. The third, although lined, lies over a mine void, raising concerns over stability. In addition, the natural hydraulic forces of the river are aggressively eroding the river banks immediately adjacent to the pits.

Coal ash contains some of the world's deadliest toxic metals, such as arsenic, lead, mercury, cadmium, chromium and selenium. These and other chemicals found in coal ash can cause birth defects, cancer, and brain damage in humans, and can harm and kill wildlife, especially fish.

Dynegy has submitted a closure plan to the Illinois EPA. Their plan would cap these pits but leave them in the floodplain. If the pits are allowed to stay in their present location they will remain a potential hazard and a threat to public health and safety. When Dynegy leaves, these pits will become a liability for the State of Illinois and Vermilion County taxpayers.

As the Illinois EPA considers solutions to this problem, I ask that you require Dynegy- Midwest Generation to move its coal ash out of the floodplain of Illinois' only National Scenic River and place it in a properly-constructed, lined facility on their property, away from the river.

Sincerely,

Signature: _____

Name and Title: _____

Organization: _____

Street Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Email Address: _____ Phone _____