

Vermilion County Conservation District
Headquarters, Kennekuk County Park
Danville, Illinois

Resolution 16-3

Concerns of the Coal Ash Storage Pits Bordering the Middle Fork National Scenic River in Vermilion County

WHEREAS, the Vermilion County Conservation District maintains a border with the Middle Fork National Scenic River, the only such river designation in Illinois, and thus is concerned over the potential of pollution by coal fly ash in the Middle Fork National Scenic River; and

WHEREAS, the coal fly ash is present in storage pits at the Dynegy Midwest Generation, L.L.C. Vermilion facility, that has been closed since 2011 and that risks of pollution remain because of lack of structural integrity; and

WHEREAS, recent observations show severe bank erosion by the river due to a high volume of water during the summer of 2015 flooding that is reducing the earth barrier between the river and coal fly ash pits; and

WHEREAS, recent observations indicate an increase in the amount of heavy metal seepage into the river as compared to 2015; and

WHEREAS, the river system is used for wildlife observation, canoeing, kayaking, floating, fishing, hiking, horseback riding, hunting, picnicking, nature photography and other nature-related enjoyment; and

WHEREAS, the river system supports a diverse range of threatened and endangered species, where twenty-four species are officially identified as state and federally threatened or endangered such as the blue breast darter, northern slippershell mussel, creek heelsplitter mussel, and the recently re-located northern riffleshell and clubshell mussels from the Allegheny River in Pennsylvania, chosen because of the requirement of high water quality found in this river; and

WHEREAS, the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency has proposed rules to the Illinois Pollution Control Board to address coal ash issues at power plant sites to establish criteria, requirements, and standards for preventive response or corrective action as deemed necessary to protect river quality; and

WHEREAS, the mission statement of the Vermilion County Conservation District is "to assure our people permanent access to their outdoor heritage", thus the District strongly supports rules for the benefit of its citizens.

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT the Vermilion County Conservation District requests that the Illinois Pollution Control Board should consider implementation of rules that will provide greater protection of water resources threatened by coal ash disposal; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency and the Illinois Department of Natural Resources do not approve a closure plan of the Dynegy Midwest Generation Vermilion facility until the concerns of the potential pollution of groundwater and surface water are addressed.

Adopted this 15th day of June, 2016.

ATTEST:



Allen E. Cooke
Allen E. Cooke
Second Vice President
Vermilion County Conservation District



Jonathan A. Myers
Jonathan A. Myers
President
Vermilion County Conservation District