



# Cleaning Up Georgia's Coal Ash

The dangers coal ash poses to Georgia communities, wildlife and waterways are clear and well documented. It must be disposed of safely to protect the health of our state.

**Coal ash sites across Georgia are contaminating our groundwater.** But Georgia Power proposes to “cap in place” many sites.

**“Cap in place” means the ash would not be moved away from waterways.** Instead, it would be left in unlined pits—with no barrier to protect our groundwater from toxic metals, some of which have already been found in drinking wells across the state.

**Coal ash poses serious health risks.** The chemicals found in coal ash have been found to raise the risk for cancer, heart disease, and stroke, and can inflict permanent brain damage on children.

# 92 MILLION TONS

Estimated amount of toxic coal ash stored at sites all across Georgia. More than half is planned to be capped in place and stored in unlined pits.



When coal is burned to generate electricity, coal ash is left behind. Some of the most dangerous known toxic chemicals on Earth—like arsenic, lead, mercury, and chromium—are found in coal ash.



Georgia Power is storing millions of tons of coal ash in unlined pits all across Georgia, and dangerous chemicals have been found seeping into groundwater at nearly every ash site.

**Coal ash contaminants in groundwater can leach into nearby rivers and streams, impacting any bodies of water downstream.** That means the fish you caught over the weekend might not be safe to feed to your family; the lake you have visited since you were a kid might not be safe for swimming or canoeing.

**The only way to adequately protect our communities is to move coal ash to dry lined storage away from waterways.** “Cap in place” is not an adequate solution to protect the health of Georgia families and communities.

**When it comes to disposal, banana peels and apple cores are held to more scrutiny than coal ash.** Poisonous waste from an industrial coal burning furnace is allowed to be dumped in large pits right next to the river that delivers the water that our kids drink, but there are stringent standards for the proper disposal of the mac and cheese you threw out last week.

**Georgia Power and its shareholders must pay their fair share for the safest possible clean up.** No cost is too high to protect the health of all Georgians.

**And Georgia Power needs to do it right the first time.** Permits for full excavation now can mitigate the need to remediate in the future with changing federal rules and regulations, ultimately saving money.

**Fundamentally, Georgia Power needs to cut off this toxic pollution at the source:** stop burning coal, retire the remaining three operational coal plants, and help our communities transition to a diverse, clean energy economy.

# \$8 Billion

## GEORGIA POWER'S ESTIMATED COAL ASH CLEAN UP COST

Find out more: [GeorgiaCoalAsh.org](http://GeorgiaCoalAsh.org)

