

July 20, 2010

BY E-MAIL

Dr. Alexander Livnat, PhD
Office of Resource Conservation and Recovery
United States Environmental Protection Agency
5304P
Washington, DC 20460

**Re: Request for Regional Public Hearings on the Proposed Coal Combustion
Residuals Rule, Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-RCRA-2009-0640**

Dear Dr. Livnat:

As we are sure you know, Tennessee has the unfortunate distinction of being home to the largest coal combustion waste spill in history. East Tennessee is therefore a uniquely important region in the regulatory decision-making process. Despite this significance, however, EPA has egregiously ignored all of Appalachia and East Tennessee in scheduling public hearings on its proposed coal ash regulations. We are, of course, very concerned that an East Tennessee location is not included on this list, and we are further concerned that EPA announced its decision on hearing locations prior to the closure of the hearing request period on July 21, thereby ignoring the input of all requests received between the 15th and the 21st of July.

We are writing to specifically request a hearing in Knoxville or Roane County, Tennessee in order that EPA can hear the voices of those most significantly effected by the ongoing mismanagement of coal ash. Failure to do so is an injustice, diminishing the comprehensiveness of the public hearing process and ignoring all those individuals who have the most experience with coal ash's real-world dangers and who, therefore, have the most to say.

We, the undersigned, implore the Agency to remedy this oversight immediately, by adding a hearing site in East Tennessee. There are a number of low cost or even free meeting spaces in Knoxville, including the University of Tennessee, the City/County Building, and numerous hotels either in Knoxville proper or very near the airport. Roane State Community College, in the epicenter of the Kingston spill, would also be an excellent location. Given the importance of this area and the availability of space, there is no excuse for exclusion of the region from the public hearing process.

Thank you for your consideration of this urgent request. As this letter demonstrates, local, regional and national groups and individuals from across the nation recognize the crucial role that East Tennessee plays in this process and we all hope that you will be able to arrange a meeting in this area. If you have any questions or need further advice on convenient meeting locations, please do not hesitate to contact the Southern Alliance for Clean Energy at the numbers above.

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Respectfully submitted by:



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