

Groups urge government to phase out coal ash storage

March 3 -- Some 109 environmental groups are calling on the federal government to phase out the wet storage of coal ash.

The groups sent a joint letter to Lisa Jackson, administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, calling on her to regulate coal ash in wake of the Dec. 22 spill at the Tennessee Valley Authority's coal-fired power plant near Kingston, Tenn.

"The wet storage or disposal of coal combustion waste should be phased out," the March 3 letter said. "Active surface impoundments should be closed and emptied within two years."

The environmental groups joining the letter include the Environmental Integrity Project, Earthjustice, the Sierra Club, the Natural Resources Defense Council, Greenpeace, the National Wildlife Foundation, Public Citizen, Environment America and the Clean Air Task Force.

A copy of the letter is available at www.environmentalintegrity.org/pub608.cfm.

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