

U.S. EPA identifies 584 coal ash ponds in 35 states

Sept. 2 -- The U.S. EPA has identified 584 coal ash ponds in 35 states across the country, with the largest number in Indiana, Kentucky, Iowa and Ohio.

The EPA collected the list from information provided from electric utilities in the wake of a coal ash spill last December at the Tennessee Valley Authority's Kingston Fossil Plant in Harriman, Tenn.

Environmentalists said the information supports their belief that more stringent regulation of the coal ash ponds is necessary. They would like to see coal ash regulated as a hazardous waste.

However, industry groups, including the Edison Electric Institute, say regulation of coal ash as a nonhazardous waste combined with possibly more stringent safety regulations for the dams would protect the public without discouraging the beneficial reuse of coal ash in building materials.

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