Friends and Colleagues:

You are invited by Environmental Integrity Project, Earthjustice, Sierra Club, NRDC, SELC, Physicians for Social Responsibility and many others to join a community briefing and strategy session on the EPA’s recently proposed coal ash rule, next Thursday June 24th from 9:00am-11:00am at Sierra Club offices in Capitol Hill (408 C St. NE). Bagels and coffee will be provided! Call-in information will be sent separately to all who RSVP and request it.

What: Breakfast briefing on EPA coal ash rule

When: June 24th, 9am-11am

Where: Sierra Club, 408 C St. NE

RSVP: If you can attend, please RSVP to: energy.intern@sierraclub.org.

Coal ash is the second-largest industrial waste stream in America, second only to mining waste. Coal ash contains arsenic, selenium, lead, boron and mercury. These substances leach out of coal ash at disposal sites around the country – and sometimes burst out of a ruptured dam, as they did in December 2008 in Kingston, Tennessee, flooding a river valley, destroying three homes, and covering 300 acres with thick, toxic sludge. The terrible disaster in Tennessee has helped create an historic opportunity to win significant long-term protections for communities from the dangers of toxic coal ash, but we need your help to get the job done.

EPA will publish their proposed rule in the Federal Register the week of June 21, triggering a 90-day public comment period and a series of public hearings (dates and locations TBD).We must demonstrate strong public support for the EPA subtitle C option. (For a quick briefing/overview of the rule as proposed, see the attached summary document).

We invite you to join our coalition, which has regular coordinating calls to guide our lobbying, grassroots and communications efforts. As the rulemaking gets underway, we especially welcome additional participation.

Ways you can engage:

1. RSVP for a community briefing and strategy session 9am- 11am June 24th at Sierra Club's Capitol Hill office (408 St. NE), or by phone; call-in will be sent separately to all who RSVP and request it. RSVP to energy.intern@sierraclub.org

2. Join the coal ash listerv (instructions included in attached document)

3. Join our coalition calls, Mondays 3pm. If you would like to join

these calls, email: Lisa Evans, Earthjustice, Levans@earthjustice.org

4. Mobilize your networks to generate public comment and turnout to EPA hearings, push back against industry influence in Congress and mobilize Champs to support strong EPA rule.

5. Invite other potential allies to join the coalition!

We hope you’ll join us.

Resources attached:

Coal ash listserv (sign-up directions attached) Coal ash - myths vs. fact Summary of EPA?s proposed rule Environmental community letter to Adminstrator Jackson Link to Washington Post ad from 1-year Anniversary of the TVA disaster:

Available by request (contact: Lyndsay.moseley@sierraclub.org):

Talking points

Sample action alerts

Info about regular coalition coordination calls

Additional Background Information:

Power plants in the U.S. produce enough coal ash annually to fill train cars stretching from the North Pole to the South Pole. Coal ash is filled with arsenic, lead, cadmium, mercury, selenium, and many other dangerous pollutants that can cause cancer and damage the nervous system and other organs, especially in children. The TVA disaster that dumped over a billion gallons of toxic coal ash into a residential community brought to light this national problem.

EPA’s proposed rule included two options for regulating coal ash under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA); and they are seeking public comment on both options, including:

1) A plan to regulate coal ash as a “special waste” with all the associated safeguards for storage, handling, transport and disposal that apply for hazardous wastes under subtitle C of RCRA. And

2) a plan that is essentially no different than the status quo -- an inadequate patchwork of state regulations that have failed us up until now, under subtitle D of RCRA.

The difference between the two options is stark. One takes great strides toward protecting human health and the environment, while the other leaves thousands of communities across America vulnerable to unsafe dumps. Over the past 18 months, polluters have already lined up significant opposition to regulating coal ash under subtitle C of RCRA. We need your help to mobilize and amplify a broad range of voices in support of regulations that will protect health, life and the environment.