**Kansas** **and Coal Ash Disposal in Ponds and Landfills**

Summary:[[1]](#footnote-1)

**Plant Operator Facility County**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Riverton Power Station  | Empire District Electric Co  | 1 Pond | Cherokee |
| Nearman Creek Power Station (KACY) | Kansas City Board of Public Utilities  | 1 Pond | Wyandotte |
| LaCygne Generating Station  | Kansas City Power & Light Co  | 2 Ponds/landfill\* | Linn |
| Jeffrey Energy Center  | Westar Energy  | 3 Ponds | Pottawatomie |
| Lawrence Energy Center (KPL) | Westar Energy  | 4 Ponds/landfill\* | Douglas |
| Tecumseh Energy Center  | Westar Energy  | 2 Ponds/landfill\* | Shawnee |
| Holcomb | Sunflower Electric Power Corp. | landfill\* | Finney |
| Quindaro | City of Kansas City | data indeterminate | Wyandotte |

\*indicates one or more coal ash landfills.[[2]](#footnote-2)

*Amount of coal ash generated per year*: 1.3 million tons. Kansas ranks 29th in the country for coal ash generation.[[3]](#footnote-3)

The U.S. EPA has not yet gathered information on coal ash disposal in landfills, so a detailed breakdown is not yet available. However, according to a 2007 EPA risk assessment, the coal ash landfill at the Holcomb power station is unlined and does not have a leachate collection system. Four other surface impoundments and landfills in Kansas are only clay-lined, and none of them have leachate collection systems.[[4]](#footnote-4)

Information on Coal Ash Ponds in Kansas

*Number of Coal Ash Ponds*: 13 ponds at 6 plants.[[5]](#footnote-5)

*Pond Rating*s*:* One pond received a rating of “significant hazard.”[[6]](#footnote-6)

*Age of Ponds*: 13 ponds are over 20 years old, and 8 of those are over 30 years old.[[7]](#footnote-7) The age of these ponds makes it unlikely that they have safeguards like liners and leachate collection systems.

*Capacity and releases*: The EPA surface impoundment database contains storage capacity data for 10 of the 13 ponds in KS. For these sites, coal ash storage capacity is 9,126 acre feet. In July 2007, September 2007 and May 2009 the LaCygne Generating Station reported releases “due to unusual rainfall events.”[[8]](#footnote-8)

1. United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA). Database of coal combustion waste surface impoundments (2009). Information collected by EPA from industry responses to Information Collection Request letters issued to the companies on March 9, 2009. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. U.S. Department of Energy's Energy Information Administration, Form EIA-767, Annual Steam-Electric Plant Operation and Design Data. 2005. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. U.S. EPA and United States Department of Energy (U.S. DOE). *Coal Combustion Waste Management at Landfills and Surface Impoundments*, *1994-2004* (August 2006). [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. RTI International. *Human and Ecological Risk Assessment of Coal Combustion Wastes, Draft* (August 6, 2007), prepared for the US Environmental Protection Agency. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. U.S. EPA. Database of coal combustion waste surface impoundments (2009). [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. *Id.* [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. *Id.* [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. *Id.* [↑](#footnote-ref-8)