

Coal Combustion Products (CCPs)

Questions and Answers about Toxicity and Assessment of Risk

Environment

CCP's in the News

- TVA
- Environmental group publications
- USEPA's proposed rule-making
- LEO website

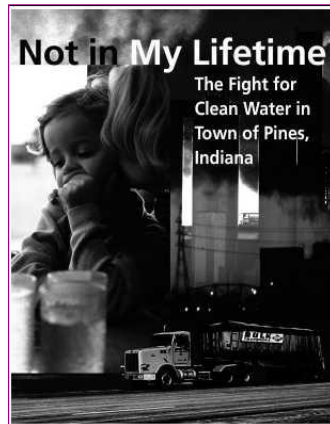
Coming Clean: What the EPA Knows About the Dangers of Coal Ash

A Summary of the United States Environmental Protection Agency's 2007 Human and Ecological Risk Assessment of Coal Combustion Wastes

A Report by The Environmental Integrity Project and Earthjustice
May 2009



Source: Google Earth Satellite Image (38° 21' 02.44" N, 87° 46' 03.02" W) (May 2009).



IN HARM'S WAY: Lack Of Federal Coal Ash Regulations Endangers Americans And Their Environment



2010 Thirty-nine New Damage Cases of Contamination from Improperly Disposed Coal Combustion Waste

Environmental Integrity Project, Earthjustice and Sierra Club
August 26, 2010
Jeff Stant, Project Director, Editor and Contributing Author

Out of Control: Mounting Damages From Coal Ash Waste Sites



2010 Thirty-one New Damage Cases of Contamination from Improperly Disposed Coal Combustion Waste

Environmental Integrity Project and Earthjustice
February 24, 2010
Jeff Stant, Project Director, Editor and Contributing Author



Aug. 15, 2010

Coal Ash: 130 Million Tons of Waste

60 Minutes Investigates a Potentially Harmful Waste Byproduct that Inundated a Tenn. Town



From CBS Video Coal Ash: 130 Million Tons of Waste
If coal ash is safe to spread under a golf

(CBS) This story was originally published on Oct. 4, 2009. It was updated on Aug. 15, 2010.

We burn so much coal in this country for electricity that every year that process generates 130 million tons of waste. Most of it is coal ash, and it contains some nasty stuff. Environmental scientists tell us that the concentrations of mercury, arsenic, lead and other toxic metals are considerably higher in coal ash than in ordinary soil.

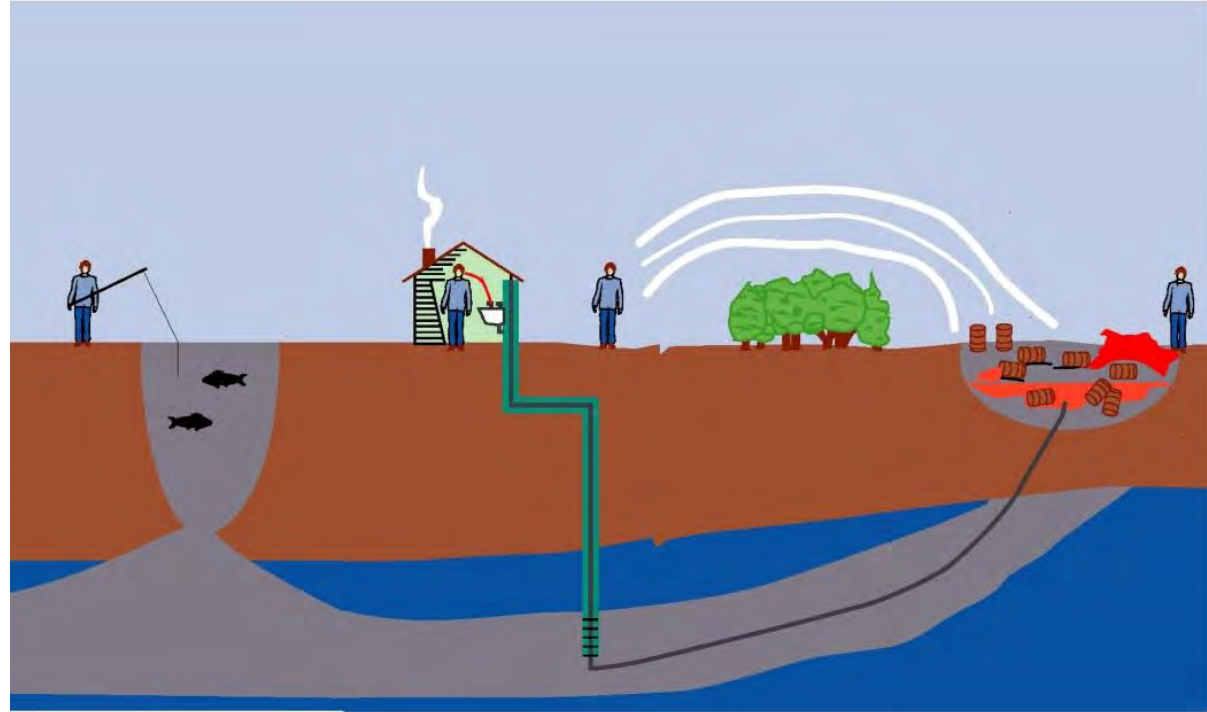


Overview

- Risk Assessment
 - Exposure
 - Toxicity
 - What are CCPs?
 - Proposed Labadie Landfill
 - USEPA's Damage Cases and Risk Assessment
- Lisa JN Bradley, PhD, DABT
 - PhD in Toxicology from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)
 - Diplomate of the American Board of Toxicology
 - 20 years of experience as toxicologist and risk assessor

Risk Assessment

- Risk Assessment
 - Hazard Identification
 - Toxicity Assessment
 - Exposure Assessment
 - Risk Characterization



$$\text{Risk} = \text{Exposure} \times \text{Toxicity}$$

Toxicology

- The study of poisons
- Dose-Response

“All substances are poisons; there is none which is not a poison. The right dose differentiates a poison from a remedy.”

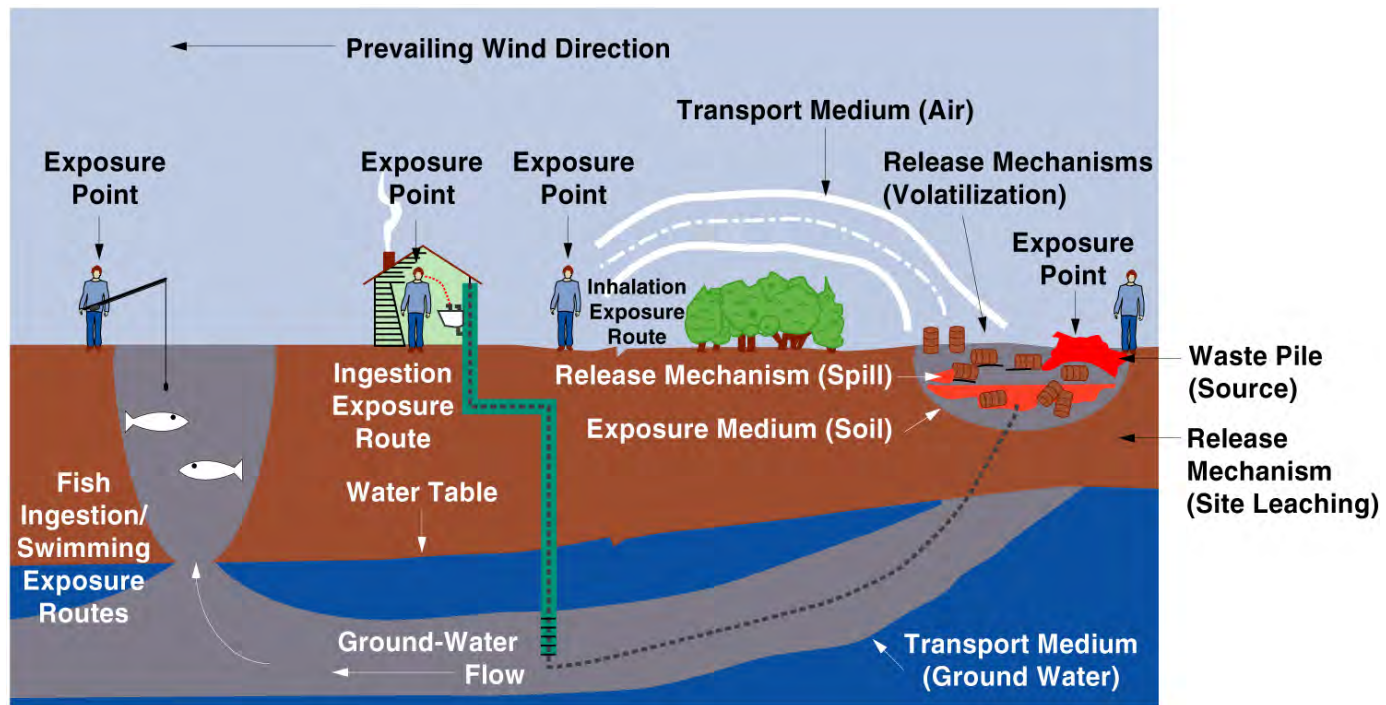
Paracelsus, 1500s



Exposure

- Routes of exposure –
 - ingestion, inhalation, dermal contact
- How much exposure –
 - how much is ingested, inhaled or contacted

If there is no exposure, there is no risk



What are CCPs?

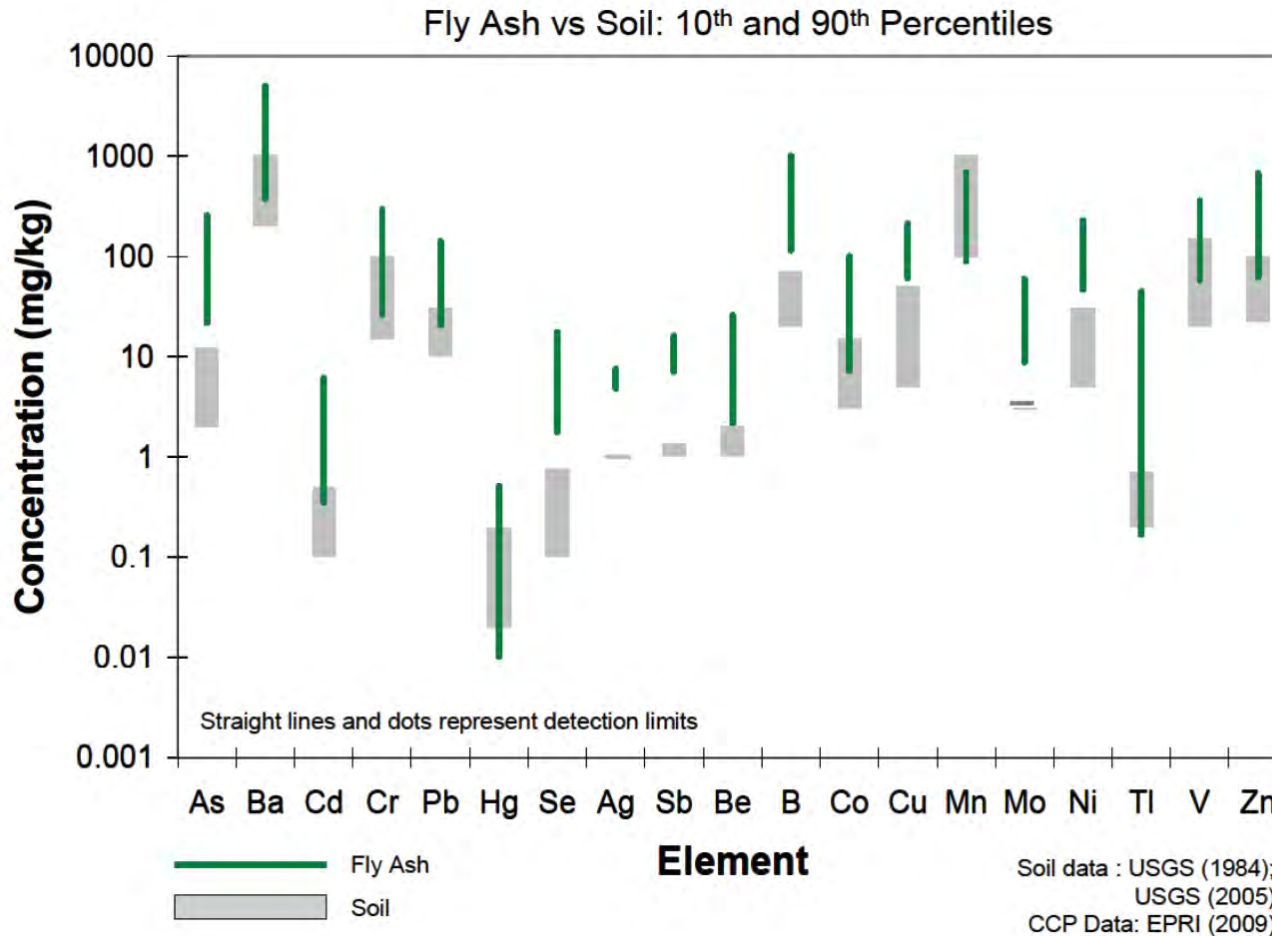


Bottom Ash



Fly Ash

Coal Ash is Similar to Other Natural Materials

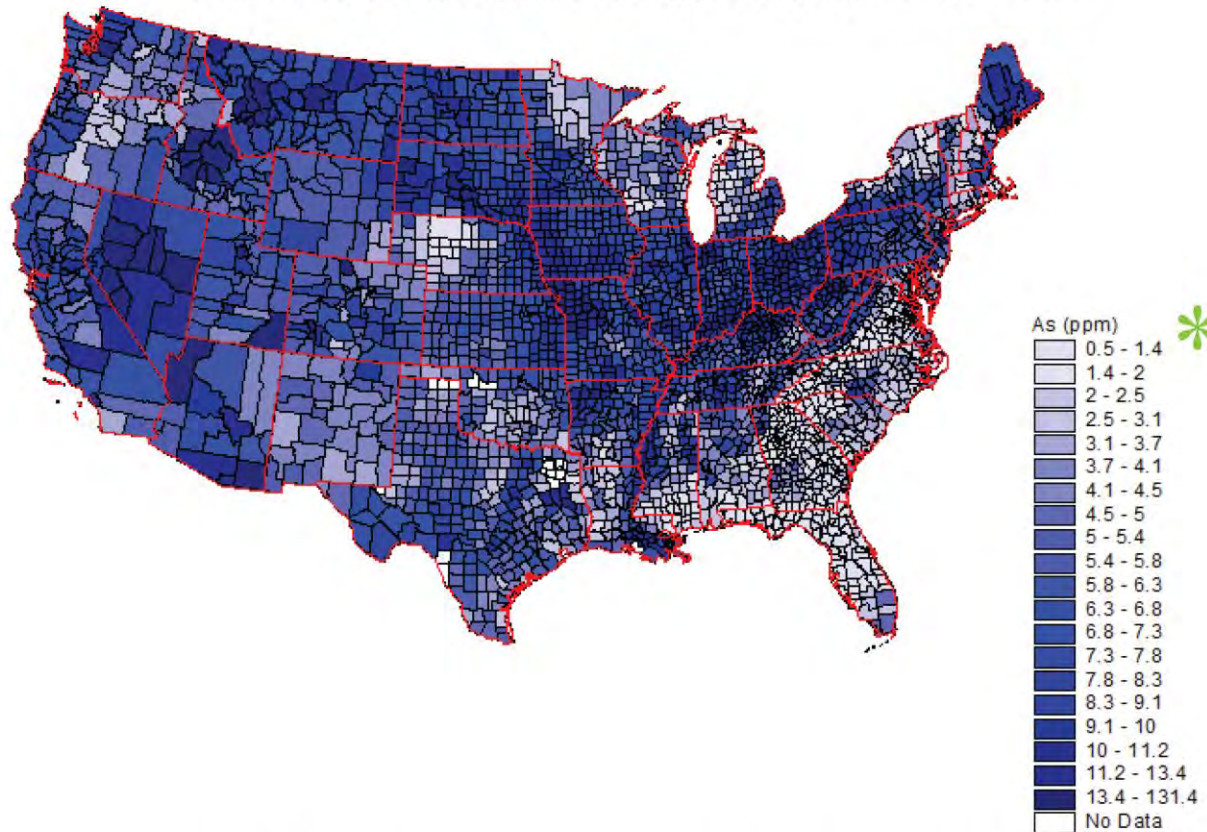


Source

EPRI, 2010. Comparison of Coal Combustion Products to Other Common Materials – Chemical Characteristics. Report No. 1020556. Available for download at www.epri.com.

Arsenic is Present in our Natural Environment

Arsenic in Soils and Sediments in the US



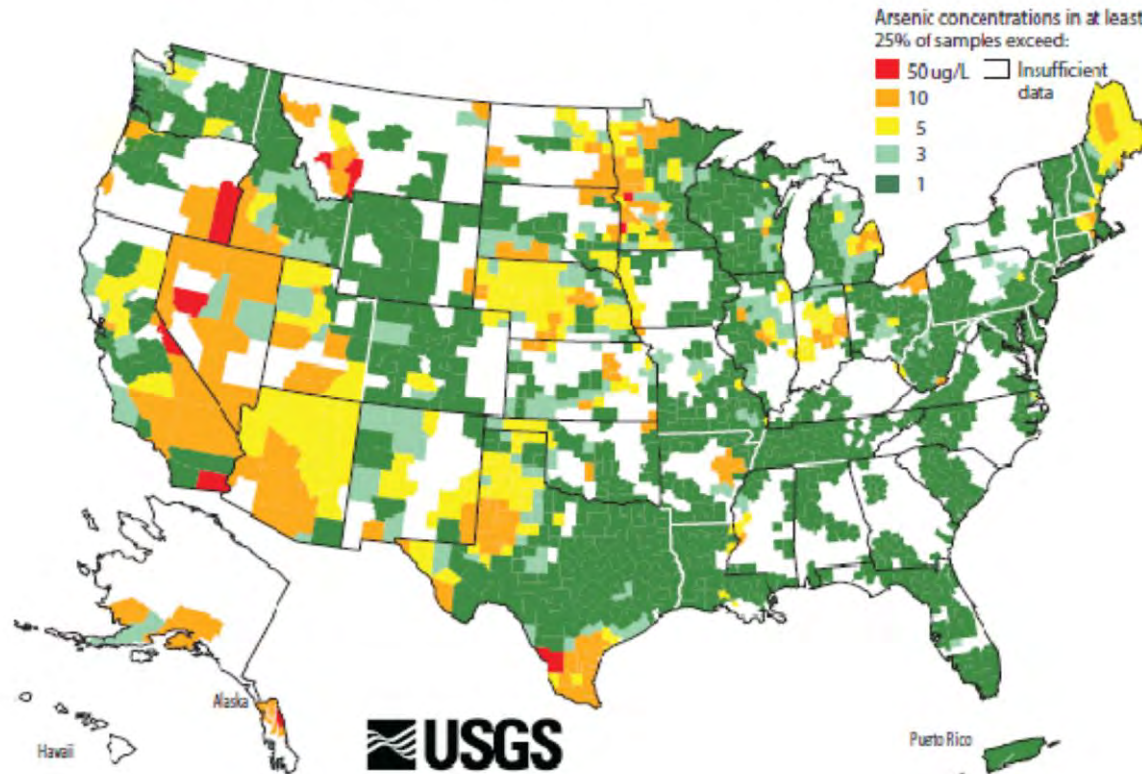
The USEPA regional screening level for arsenic in soil at a 1 in one million risk level is 0.39 ppm;* thus, the arsenic concentrations in the majority of soils in the U.S. are above the 1 in one million risk level.

Sources

- USEPA, 2010. Regional Screening Level Table. May 2010. <http://www.epa.gov/region09/superfund/prg/index.html>
- Soil. USGS, 2010. The National Geochemical Survey – Database and Documentation. <http://tin.er.usgs.gov/geochem/doc/home.htm>

Arsenic is Present in our Natural Environment

Arsenic in Groundwater in the US



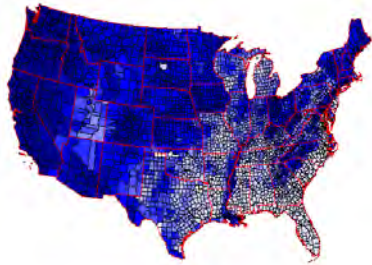
The USEPA regional screening level for arsenic in tapwater at a 1 in one million risk level is 0.045 $\mu\text{g/L}$.

Sources

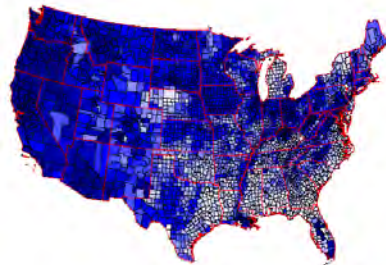
- Groundwater. USGS, 2001. Trace Elements National Synthesis Project. http://water.usgs.gov/nawqa/trace/pubs/geo_v46n11/fig2.html
- USEPA, 2010. Regional Screening Level Table. May 2010. <http://www.epa.gov/region09/superfund/prg/index.html>

All Metals are Naturally Present in Our Environment

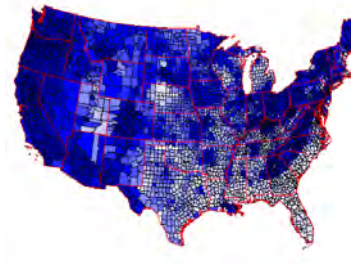
ALUMINUM



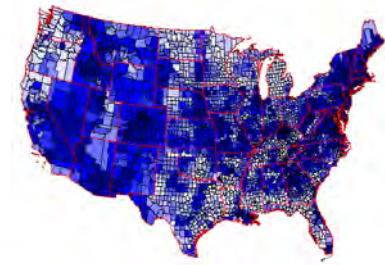
COPPER



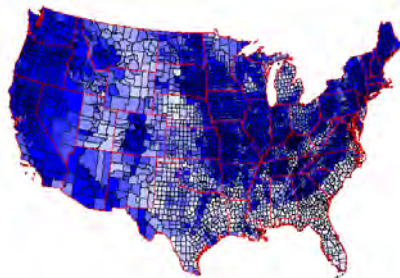
IRON



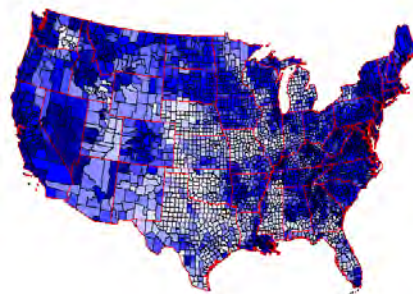
LEAD



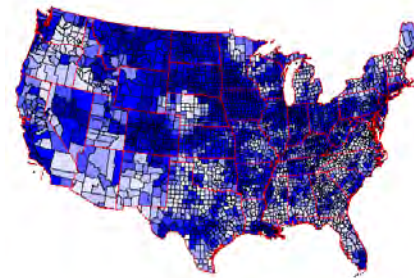
MANGANESE



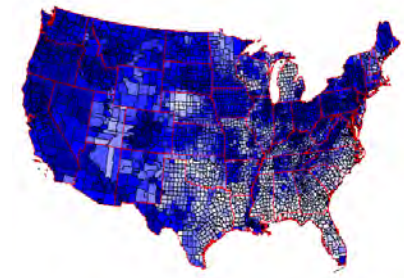
MERCURY



SELENIUM



ZINC

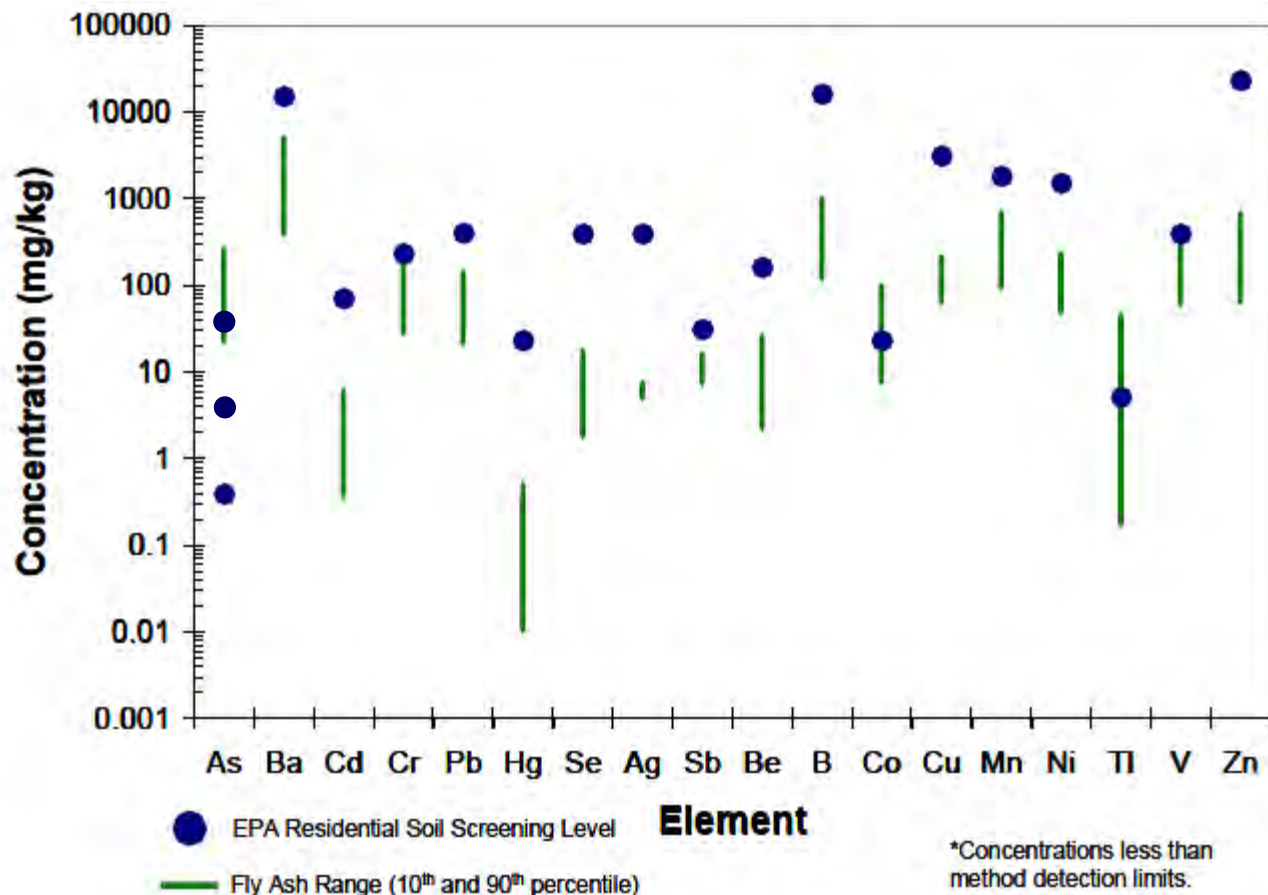


Source

Soil. USGS, 2010. The National Geochemical Survey – Database and Documentation. <http://tin.er.usgs.gov/geochem/doc/home.htm>

Coal Ash Levels Similar or Less than Risk-Based Screening Levels

Trace Element Concentration Ranges in Fly Ash Compared to EPA Residential Soil Screening Levels

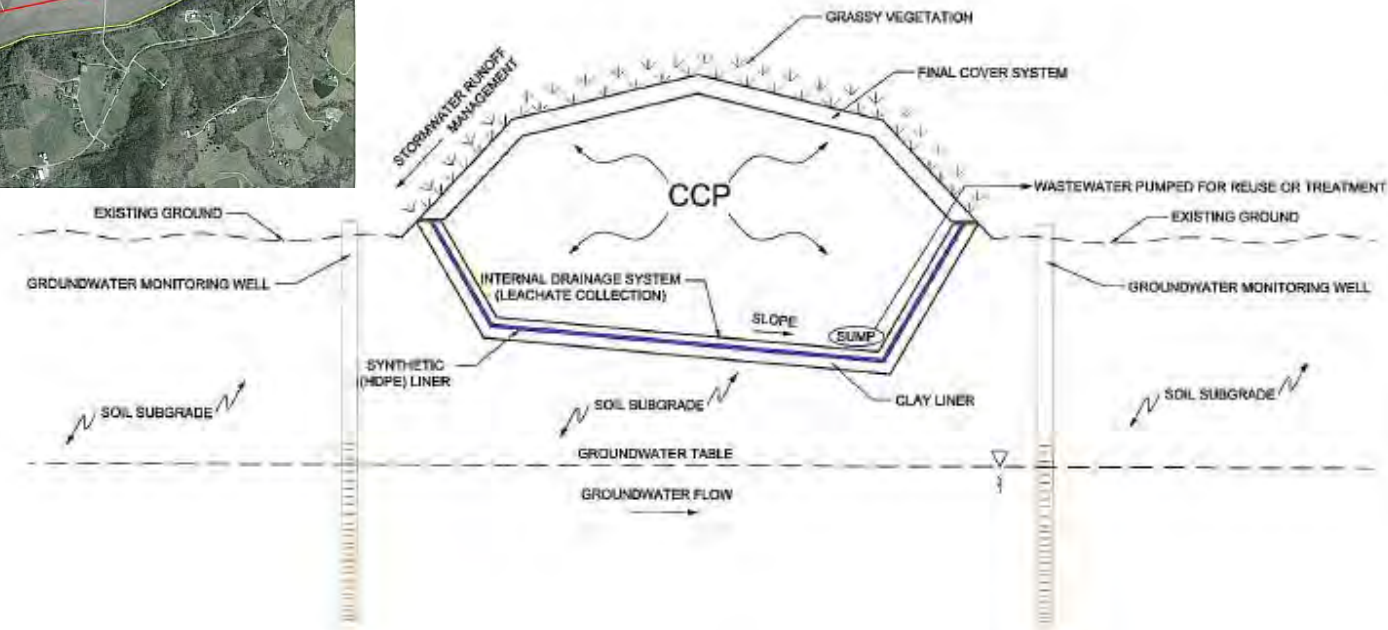
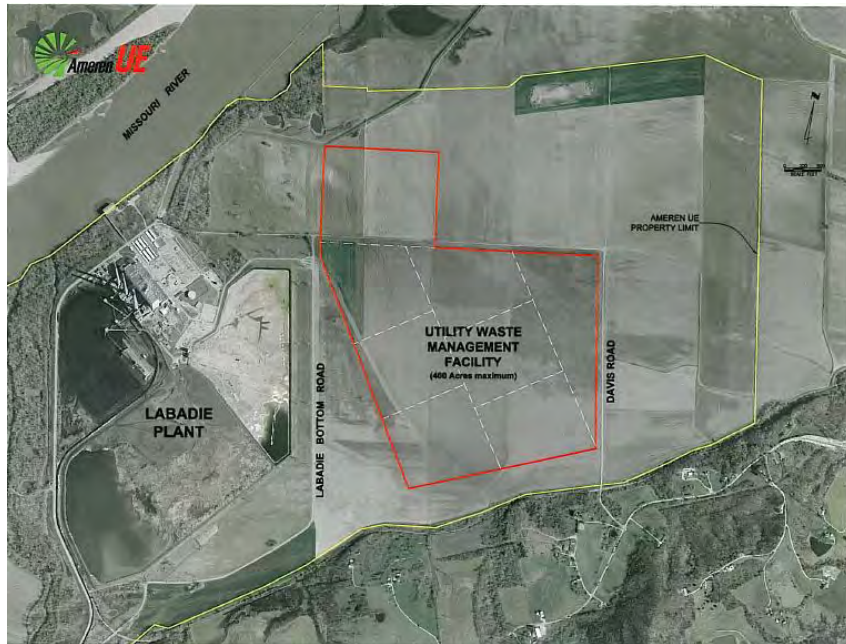


As = Arsenic
 Ba = Barium
 Cd = Cadmium
 Cr = Chromium
 Pb = Lead
 Hg = Mercury
 Se = Selenium
 Ag = Silver
 Sb = Antimony
 Be = Beryllium
 B = Boron
 Co = Cobalt
 Cu = Copper
 Mn = Manganese
 Mo = Molybdenum
 Ni = Nickel
 Tl = Thallium
 V = Vanadium
 Zn = Zinc

Source

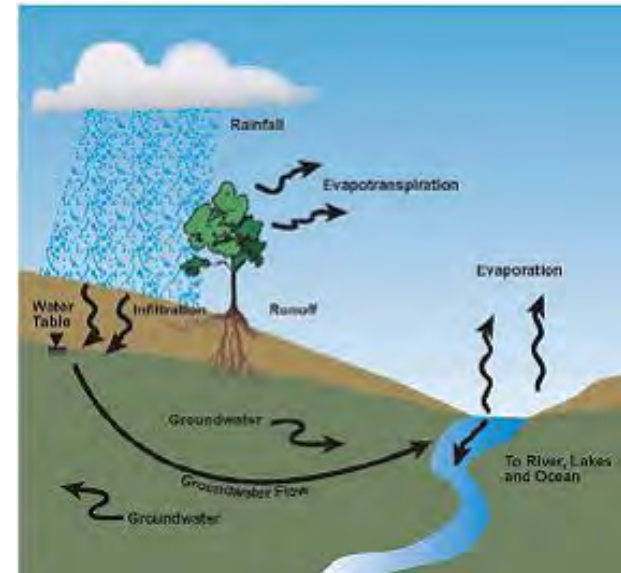
EPRI, 2010. Comparison of Coal Combustion Products to Other Common Materials – Chemical Characteristics. Report No. 1020556. Available for download at www.epri.com.

Proposed Labadie Landfill Design



USEPA Risk Assessment and Damage Cases

- USEPA Damage Cases
 - Identified based on whether off-site groundwater had constituent levels in excess of drinking water standards
 - There has been no reported evidence of adverse health effects associated with the damage cases
- USEPA Risk Assessment for CCPs – Groundwater Pathway
 - Lined Landfill groundwater risks below EPA levels of concern



Summary

- Risk is a function of toxicity and exposure
- If there is no exposure, there is no risk
- The constituents present in CCPs are present in our natural environment
- The proposed Labadie landfill design will prevent direct contact exposure and prevent potential impact to groundwater
- EPA's own risk assessment concluded that composite-lined landfills did not pose a risk concern

