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United States
Environmental Protection
Agency

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[www.epa.gov/epaoswer/
other/fossil/index.htm](http://www.epa.gov/epaoswer/other/fossil/index.htm)

“Listening” Meetings on Coal Combustion Byproducts

In May 2000, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) made a regulatory determination that coal combustion byproducts do not warrant regulation as a hazardous waste under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA). When that decision was made, the Agency announced its intention to establish a nonhazardous waste regulatory system for coal combustion byproducts disposed of in surface impoundments and landfills, and used as minefill in coal and other mines. In addition to the information already received from industry, individuals, citizen groups, and state and federal regulators, EPA is holding “listening” meetings to learn more from the interested public about the use and disposal of coal combustion byproducts. The Agency remains concerned about the disposal of coal combustion byproducts because of the potential for environmental damage; the lack of ground-water protection via monitoring and/or liners; and widely varying state regulatory programs.

In order to provide sufficient and practical environmental safeguards, the Agency is holding public meetings to listen and learn about common concerns, practices, and uses of these byproducts. The general public—especially people who live or work at or near facilities that produce or use coal combustion byproducts—are encouraged to attend. People or businesses involved with, concerned about, or otherwise interested in the implementation of federal RCRA standards or the federal Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act (SMCRA) also are encouraged to attend. The meetings are scheduled to run from 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., but EPA will allow additional time, if needed to accommodate speakers. Speakers are requested to register at least seven days in advance of a meeting. Speakers may register on-line at: <http://www.epa.gov/epaoswer/other/fossil/index.htm>. Following are details on the meetings.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Place</u>
April 13, 2004	The Fairmont Dallas Hotel, 1717 N. Akard St., Dallas, TX
April 22, 2004	Quality Inn Vincennes, 600 Old Wheatland Rd., Vincennes, IN
May 5, 2004	Marriott/Wyndham Harrisburg-Hershey, 4650 Lindle Rd., Harrisburg, PA (<i>This meeting is scheduled to start at 5:30 pm</i>)

Currently, regulation of coal combustion byproducts is possible under three scenarios:

- federal or state agencies operating under SMCRA,
- by state programs operating under state mining or solid waste authorities, or
- by some combination of these authorities.

Annually, about 115 million tons of coal combustion byproducts are generated nationwide. Of that, 78 million tons are sent to surface impoundments or landfills and 9 million tons are used as minefill. The use of coal combustion byproducts as minefill is a recent trend. Minefill can neutralize acid mine drainage and stabilize and reclaim mined lands.

Interested parties are encouraged to participate since these meetings are public

opportunities to provide information to the Agency about practices and management of coal combustion byproducts. Address inquiries to: Bonnie Robinson by email, robinson.bonnie@epa.gov; by phone, 703-308-8429; or by fax 703-308-8686. More information about coal combustion byproducts and placement in impoundments, landfills, and mines also is available on the Internet at the above web site.