Junk and Debris Disposal - Call for Junk Removal DC Md VA
Junk and Debris Hauling. Property Clean outs Home or Office Call Today

AD junkremovalservice2.com

U.S. & WORLD NEWS FROM MLIVE.COM

Imports of coal ash on rise as US shifts from coal power

Updated Mar 23, 2017;
Posted Mar 23, 2017

FILE - This Friday, Feb. 29, 2008, photo shows an aerial view of the fly ash landfill at Dominion's Chesapeake Energy Center in Chesapeake, Va. As Virginia and its public utilities struggle to cope with the coal ash buried in pits and ponds across the state, tons

1

more of the industrial byproduct is being imported each year. (Bill Tiernan/The Virginian-Pilot via AP)

6

15
shares

By The Associated Press
Wire reports

RICHMOND, Va. (AP) -- Shipping containers full of coal ash from China, Poland and India have come into the U.S. through the Port of Virginia as foreign companies find a market for the same industrial waste that America's utilities are struggling to dispose of.

Critics call it a missed opportunity. Coal ash is treasure as well as trash, useful for projects from roads to concrete to wallboard. They want Virginia to mandate more recycling of the ash that's already here, threatening to contaminate water sources or create an environmental disaster.

"We have millions of tons of this sitting along our riverbanks," said Travis Blankenship, former government affairs manager for the Virginia League of Conservation Voters. "Why in the world would we be importing it from other states and countries?"

1

ED_002911D_00036227-00002

The nation's shift away from coal for electricity has reduced the supply of fresh coal ash, forcing industries that depend on it to look farther afield. Some turn to companies that have figured out how to reprocess ash discarded years ago in pits and ponds. Others look overseas.

The Port of Virginia handled just one shipping container of coal ash in 2015, from India. Last year, there were about 22, from China and Poland. It all went on to Ohio and Wisconsin, according to a port spokesman who didn't know the final destinations. Meanwhile, more ash has been trucked in from other states for concrete production in Virginia.

Coal ash is an umbrella term. It includes bottom ash, which settles in boilers; fly ash, a powdery material captured in exhaust stacks; and synthetic gypsum, a byproduct of smokestack "scrubbing."

1

ED_002911D_00036227-00003

These materials can be had for several dollars a ton if trucked directly from a utility to a factory or job site. They're more expensive to obtain in a useful form after decades underground or underwater. That makes foreign imports economically viable.

Nationally, there are more than 1,100 coal ash dumps, many unlined. In 2014, the Environmental Protection Agency classified coal ash as nonhazardous, partly to avoid a "stigma" that might discourage proper containment and recycling, the agency said.

Breaking down Consumers Energy site near Muskegon Lake, from coal pile to cattails

---

Use of and/or registration on any portion of this site constitutes acceptance of our User Agreement (updated 5/25/18) and Privacy Policy and Cookie Statement (updated 5/25/18).

© 2018 Advance Local Media LLC. All rights reserved (About Us).
The material on this site may not be reproduced, distributed, transmitted, cached or otherwise used, except with the prior written permission of Advance Local.

Community Rules apply to all content you upload or otherwise submit to this site.

Your California Privacy Rights

Ad Choices

1