

**U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Public Hearing
September 14, 2010 ~ Charlotte, NC**

**Hazardous & Solid Waste Management System
Identification & Listing of Special Wastes
Disposal of Coal Combustion Residuals from Electric Utilities
Docket ID #: EPA-HQ-RCRA-2009-0640**

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The beneficial use of coal ash contributes 6 to 11 billion dollars to the U.S. economy on an annual basis. Designating coal ash as a hazardous waste will **jeopardize** up to \$11 billion of economic value for our nation each year.

My name is Janet Gellici. I'm Chief Executive Officer of the American Coal Council. The ACC is a trade association representing over 160 companies involved in the coal industry. Our members include coal suppliers, utilities and industrial coal consumers, railroads, ports, service firms and universities. Many of our member companies are actively engaged in beneficially recycling coal ash.

In 2005, the ACC conducted the **first ever assessment** of the economic value of beneficial coal ash use. That study identified a total economic benefit of \$4.5 billion annually. Since the 2005 report was published, beneficial use of coal ash has increased significantly.

The ACC updated its economic assessment in January of this year. We found that use of coal ash **now contributes** \$6-11 billion in annual economic benefit for the U.S. economy. These benefits include revenues from the sale of coal ash for beneficial use, avoided cost of disposal and savings from use as sustainable building materials.

The ACC study also identified **significant** environmental advantages associated with beneficial use of coal ash. We found:

- An annual reduction in **energy consumption** equivalent to the energy consumed by 1.7 million homes.
- **Water savings** equal to 31% of California's annual domestic water use.
- Annual **GHG emissions reductions** comparable to removing 2 million cars from the road.

The American Coal Council supports the increased beneficial use of coal ash as a non-hazardous product.

The ACC opposes EPA's proposal to reverse previous determinations that correctly concluded coal ash should NOT be regulated as a hazardous waste.

- A hazardous designation under Subtitle C **will** stigmatize the beneficial use of coal ash and seriously damage our ability to recycle this product.
- A hazardous designation **will** increase the volume of land-filled products.

- A hazardous designation **will** require the use of products that increase GHG emissions.
- A hazardous designation **will** negatively impact the U.S. economy by up to \$11 billion each year.

Coal ash disposal regulations should be enacted under Subtitle D and EPA should work to promote beneficial coal ash recycling as a benefit for our environment and our economy.

Thank you.