

Visual	Audio	Documentation
<p>Shot of polluted Dan River.</p> <p>39,000 Tons of Coal Ash 80 Miles Downstream</p>	<p>39,000 tons of coal ash poured into the Dan River... stretching 80 miles downstream...</p>	<p><u>News & Record</u>: “Coal Ash Spills Into Dan River”</p> <p>On February 4, 2014, the <u>News & Record</u> published an article entitled “Coal Ash Spills Into Dan River.” [<u>News & Record</u>, 2/4/14]</p> <p>According to the <u>Associated Press</u>, the river was “contaminated the river so badly public health officials advised against prolonged contact with the water or eating fish.” [<u>Associated Press</u>, 2/17/14]</p>
<p>“Ash is... carcinogenic... “ --Raleigh N&O</p>	<p>The coal ash contains toxins that can cause cancer...</p>	<p><u>Citizen-Times</u>: Chromium and Other Materials Typically-Found in Coal Ash Can Be Cancer-Causing</p> <p>According to the <u>Asheville Citizen-Times</u>, “Coal ash typically contains arsenic, barium, cadmium, calcium, chromium, copper, lead, magnesium, manganese, mercury, molybdenum, nickel, phosphorous, potassium, selenium, silver, sodium and zinc. Some of these materials are toxic and can cause cancer and nervous system disorders.” [<u>Citizen-Times</u>, 2/10/14]</p> <p>CNN: Dan River Water Samples Showed Evidence of Chromium</p> <p>According to CNN,</p>

“Samples taken by the Waterkeeper Alliance last week contained ‘extremely high levels of arsenic, chromium, iron, lead and other toxic metals,’ the group said in a statement.” [CNN, 2/9/14]

Chromium is Cancer-Causing

According to a Scientific America, “Chromium in Drinking Water Causes Cancer.”

From Scientific America:

A controversial water contaminant made famous by Erin Brockovich and a small California desert town is carcinogenic.

That conclusion by federal scientists, culminating more than a decade of debate, is likely to trigger new, more stringent standards limiting the amount of hexavalent chromium allowable in water supplies.

It’s been known for about 20 years that people can contract lung cancer when inhaling hexavalent chromium, also known as Chromium VI. [Scientific America,

		<p>2/20/09]</p> <p>Arsenic, Lead and Selenium Are Found in Coal Ash</p> <p>According to the <u>New York Times</u>, “Coal ash, a murky gray sludge that is the residue from burning powdered coal to generate electricity, contains high levels of toxic elements, including lead, mercury, selenium and arsenic.” [<u>New York Times</u>, 2/6/14]</p> <p>American Cancer Society: Arsenic Causes Cancer</p> <p>According to the American Cancer Society, “Arsenic is known to cause cancer, as well as many other serious health problems.” [<u>American Cancer Society</u>]</p>
<p>Shot of McCrory.</p> <p>Shots of coal ash pit.</p> <p>Lack of coal-waste oversight is under fire after giant spill –Charlotte Observer</p>	<p>But instead of protecting our air and water... Pat McCrory’s administration worked to block safeguards...</p>	<p>McCrory Signed Sweeping Regulatory ‘Reform’ Bill</p> <p>In 2013, Governor McCrory signed a bill purported to streamline the regulatory process in order to stimulate job creation, to eliminate unnecessary regulation, to make various other statutory changes.</p> <p>According to the North Carolina League of Conservation Voters, the bill “brings together a number of anti-conservation provisions found in other bills, including: allowing state regulations to expire if they do not undergo a</p>

		<p>costly and time-consuming review process every ten years; prohibiting local governments from making environmental laws stricter than those the state and federal governments impose unless adopted by a unanimous vote (an especially large issue for coastal areas which need stricter regulations to prevent erosion and damage to private property); removing or weakening many of the existing safeguards regarding landfills and repealing the Mountain Resources Planning Act.”</p> <p>“This bill passed,” NCLCV concluded, “putting many aspects of our environment and public health at risk.” [North Carolina League of Conservation Voters 2013 scorecard]</p> <p>Citizen-Times: Bill Loosened Rules to Protect Against Coal Ash</p> <p>According to the <u>Citizen-Times</u>, the bill included provisions “loosening rules to protect groundwater around coal ash ponds...”</p> <p>The <u>Citizen-Times</u> reported that environmental advocates said the bill “gives operators of ash storage facilities more license to pollute.”</p> <p>“The changes are contained in a sweeping bill approved by state House and Senate lawmakers last month,” the</p>
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<p>Shot of McCrory and aides.</p>	<p>– then cut a sweetheart deal to let industry off the hook.</p>	<p><u>News & Observer: Duke Energy Got a “Flimsy Penalty,” “Wrist Slap”</u></p> <p>According to an editorial in the <u>News & Observer</u>, “Something does not seem right about how the Department of Environment and Natural Resources has handled the threat posed by coal ash stored in ponds around the state. And the more DENR officials try to justify their approach, the more suspicions grow.”</p> <p>“It was a flimsy penalty for a utility that reported a \$2.7 billion profit last year,” the <u>News & Observer</u> wrote.</p>

“The SELC got elbowed out, and Duke Energy got a wrist slap,” the editorial concluded. [News & Observer, 2/22/14]

**Democracy North Carolina:
Duke Energy Got a
“Sweetheart Deal”**

On July 16, 2013, the nonpartisan campaign finance watchdog group Democracy North Carolina criticized the deal reached with Duke Energy, describing it as “a remarkable sweetheart deal”

From Democracy North Carolina:

In a remarkable sweetheart deal anchored with \$1 million in campaign contributions, Gov. Pat McCrory’s administration yesterday agreed to settle a lawsuit against Duke Energy’s pollution of drinking water supplies in western North Carolina.

Millions of tons of ash residue from Duke’s power plants have leaked contaminants into Mountain Island Lake near Charlotte and the French Broad River near Asheville.

The problems have been known for years, but McCrory’s Department of Environment and Natural Resources signed an

agreement that delays remedial action, calls for more study of the pollution, and fines Duke a piddling \$99,112. Given Duke's \$19.6 billion in 2012 operating revenues, that's the equivalent of fining a person with a \$60,000 salary a total of 30 cents. [[Democracy North Carolina, 7/16/13](#)]

WRAL: Environmental Groups Called Agreement with Duke Energy a "Sweetheart Deal"

According to WRAL, "Environmental advocates have called it a sweetheart deal for Duke, saying the proposed \$99,000 fine is pocket change to the nation's largest electric utility, and the settlement still doesn't remove the potential danger of the ash ponds." [WRAL, 2/19/14]

Associated Press: Environmentalists Criticized "Modest Fines" as a "Sweetheart Deal"

According to the Associated Press, "North Carolina's top environmental official said Monday that he briefed Gov. Pat McCrory before intervening in lawsuits against Duke Energy, resulting in a negotiated settlement that fined the \$50 billion corporation \$99,111 to resolve violations over groundwater contamination leaching from two huge coal ash dumps.

		<p>Environmentalists criticized the modest fines as a sweetheart deal that included no requirement to force the nation's largest electricity provider to actually clean up its pollution.” [<u>Associated Press</u>, 2/17/14]</p>
<p>“...found its efforts obstructed by DENR.” - Raleigh N&O</p>	<p>The Raleigh News & Observer described it as... obstruction.</p>	<p><u>News & Observer: Southern Environmental Law Center “Found its Efforts Obstructed by DENR” Because of Settlement with Duke</u></p> <p>A <u>News & Observer</u> editorial pointed out that the Southern Environmental Law Center’s legal actions against Duke Energy were obstructed by the McCrory administration.</p> <p>From the <u>News & Observer</u>:</p> <p>One group that has made progress is the Southern Environmental Law Center. It filed three lawsuits against two utilities in South Carolina that resulted in settlements in which the utilities agreed to empty the ponds and safely store the ash or recycle it. The changes were made without any rate increase to customers.</p> <p>When the SELC tried to get the same result in North Carolina, <u>it found its efforts obstructed by DENR</u>. In each of three cases in which the environmental group gave</p>

		<p>60-day notice of intention to sue Duke Energy under the federal Clean Water Act, DENR used its authority under the act to preempt citizens' suits by filing its own. As a result, it was DENR – not the more demanding SELC – that controlled how the suits would be resolved. <u>[EMPHASIS ADDED; News & Observer, 2/22/14]</u></p>
<p>Shot of McCrory at news conference with coal ash dripping off his hands.</p>	<p>Pat McCrory has coal ash on his hands.</p>	
<p>Shot of pollution in Dan River.</p> <p>Clean It Up.</p>	<p>It's time we made him clean it up.</p>	
<p>PAID FOR NRDC</p>		