

Visual	Audio	Backup
<p>Video news coverage with anchor and reporter audio</p>	<p>[ANCHOR AND REPORTER AUDIO]  <b>“Toxic spill where thousands of tons of coal ash”</b></p> <p><b>“... grey sludge ... seventy miles downstream”</b></p> <p>It happened here... Coal ash threatening our drinking water.</p>	<p><b>FOX 8: “Toxic spill where thousands of tons of coal ash leaked into the Dan River.”</b> FOX 8 reported, “Duke Energy, starting the process to clean up its coal ash ponds across North Carolina and it will start in Eden, the site of last month’s toxic spill where thousands of tons of coal ash leaked into the Dan River through a couple of storm drains.” [<a href="#">Fox 8 WGHP</a>, 3/13/14]</p> <p><b>WFMY News 2: “The grey sludge coated the river seventy miles downstream.”</b> WFMY News 2 reported, “The grey sludge coated the river 70 miles downstream threatening our drinking water and fish and wildlife.” [<a href="#">WFMY News 2</a>, 4/24/14]</p> <p><b>Duke Energy coal ash spill threatened community’s drinking water.</b> Fox 8 reported that the amount of arsenic in a water sample conducted by the Waterkeeper Alliance was “almost 35 times greater than the maximum contaminant level (MCL) standard that EPA considers acceptable in drinking water.” As CNN reported, “It took nearly a week to stem the spill, which sent millions of gallons of sludge from a retired power plant into a river that supplies drinking water to communities in North Carolina and neighboring Virginia.” The New York Times similarly reported that “[t]he spill ... coated the river bottom 70 miles downstream and threatened drinking water and aquatic life.” [<a href="#">Fox 8 WGHP</a>, 2/6/14; <a href="#">CNN</a>, 2/9/14; <a href="#">New York Times</a>, 2/28/14]</p>
<p>B-roll of Tillis  <b>Super: Thom Tillis Sided with Corporate Polluters.</b></p> <p>Source: SB 729, House Vote 1769, 7/3/14; Associated Press, 7/3/14</p>	<p>But Thom Tillis sided with corporate polluters.</p>	<p><b>Tillis praised “historic” coal ash bill, built support to pass it through the state House.</b> Tillis voted for Senate Bill 729, the Coal Ash Management Act of 2014, and also encouraged other members to support it. The Associated press reported that Tillis “encouraged members to vote for the bill, even if they disagree with some provisions. ‘This is unlike anything that’s been done in any other state. You have an opportunity to vote for something that’s historic,’ he said.” In a press release, Tillis said of the coal ash bill: “I am proud of our members who crafted this comprehensive bill, and I am confident that this plan will create a framework</p>

		<p>to protect North Carolinians now and in future generations.” [Senate Bill 729, <a href="#">House Vote 1769</a>, 7/3/14; <a href="#">Associated Press</a>, 7/3/14; <a href="#">Tillis press release</a>, 7/3/14]</p> <p><b>Coal ash bill leaves waters vulnerable to contamination and ratepayers at risk of clean-up costs.</b> The coal ash bill passed by the North Carolina state legislature fails to assign financial responsibility for cleanup to Duke Energy and its stockholders, leaving the likelihood that ratepayers will end up paying billions to correct Duke's coal ash management errors. It also allows coal ash pits to be "capped in place", avoiding genuine cleanup and leaving groundwater and surface waters vulnerable to continued leaking and contamination; fails to direct expeditious closure and cleanup of most coal ash pits, allowing long delays before corrective action; and authorizes a newly created Coal Ash Management Commission to delay cleanups and extend deadlines even further if it concludes that needed fixes are too expensive. [North Carolina League of Conservation Voters, <a href="#">Legislative Watch</a>, 7/7/14]</p> <p><b>Consumers could be left with bill for coal ash clean-up costs.</b> As the Charlotte Observer reported, neither the House nor Senate version of the coal ash bill “resolves whether customers will pay” for the clean-up. NC Policy Watch similarly noted that the House coal ash bill does not mandate that any clean-up costs “be borne by Duke and its shareholders.” [<a href="#">Charlotte Observer</a>, 7/3/14; <a href="#">NC Policy Watch</a>, 7/7/14]</p> <p><b>Fayetteville Observer editorial: “Coal-ash cleanup bill far short of our needs.”</b> In an editorial, the Fayetteville Observer wrote: “They're not serious. It's hard to come to any other conclusion. If the General Assembly really wanted to eliminate the threat posed by Duke Energy's coal-ash storage ponds, it would have ordered an assessment of all 33 of the ponds and come up with specific instructions for the cleanup. Instead, lawmakers made cleanup mandatory for only four of them (all curiously close to the homes of powerful legislators) and left the details for the other 29 to the</p>
--	--	--

		<p>Department of Environment and Natural Resources and Duke Energy - whose relationship over the years has been altogether too cordial. ... It appears our lawmakers have no intention of requiring Duke Energy to remove all the ash from its leaking, unlined storage pits and are willing to let the ash remain in place, where it will continue to find its way into the water table. So far, the General Assembly's action on coal ash is edging perilously close to the Shakespearean "sound and fury, signifying nothing." North Carolina deserves better." [<a href="#">Fayetteville Observer editorial</a>, 7/5/14]</p> <p><b>NC House coal ash bill lets Duke Energy leave many coal ash sites in place, threatening the drinking water of millions.</b> According to NC Policy Watch, the House bill Tillis helped pass would give Duke Energy 15 years "to 'close' all coal ash sites – [and] Duke will be allowed to simply cover those deemed to be a 'low risk' with dirt and leave them in place." NC Policy Watch further noted that 10 of the 14 Duke coal ash sites "could end up simply being 'capped in place' under Senate Bill 729 as it currently stands after approval by the House last week," and 2.6 million people could be "left unprotected who rely on drinking water intakes downstream from ten leaking Duke Energy coal ash sites not required to be cleaned up under the bill." [<a href="#">NC Policy Watch</a>, 7/7/14]</p> <p><b>AP: Environmentalists say House bill is "putting the interest of Duke over protecting drinking water."</b> The Associated Press reported, "Environmental groups say the House has weakened already weak legislation from the Senate, putting the interest of Duke over protecting drinking water. About a half dozen people in the House gallery held signs protesting the bill Thursday. 'This is a protect Duke Energy bill, rather than a coal ash cleanup bill,' said Frank Holleman, senior attorney for the Southern Environmental Law Center, which has sued Duke over coal ash pollution. Holleman said the legislation promises that scientists and experts will prioritize which sites get cleaned up first. But he said he's skeptical. 'What scientists are they talking about? Engineers at Duke who</p>
--	--	---

		<p>have been operating these coal ash ponds all along? The political appointees at the Department of Environment and Natural Resources who haven't enforced the law for years?' he said." <a href="#">[Associated Press, 7/3/14]</a></p> <p><b>N.C. Sierra Club: “Under Speaker Tillis’ leadership, the House failed” to protect North Carolinians “from Duke Energy’s toxic coal ash.”</b> The Charlotte Observer reported, “Environmental groups said the House changes weakened the Senate bill. The N.C. Sierra Club said the measure still lacks clear standards to ensure that water will be protected from contamination once ponds are closed. ‘The House missed the opportunity to build on the Senate’s good start and to address key shortcomings in the legislation,’ the club said in a statement. ‘Under Speaker (Thom) Tillis’ leadership, the House failed to make the final set of changes needed to give North Carolinians the protection they deserve from Duke Energy’s toxic coal ash.’” <a href="#">[Charlotte Observer, 7/3/14]</a></p>
<p>Audio news coverage, with spill b-roll.</p>	<p><b>"extremely high levels of toxic metals"</b></p> <p><b>"cancer-causing contaminants"</b></p>	<p><b>Fox 8: “lab results ... revealed extremely high levels of toxic metals.”</b> Fox 8 reported that “earlier in the day Thursday, the Waterkeeper Alliance and Yadkin Riverkeeper released lab results that revealed extremely high levels of toxic metals immediately downstream of the spill.” <a href="#">[Fox 8 WGHP, 2/6/14]</a></p> <p><b>WFMY: “When this drain burst, it sent known cancer-causing contaminants like arsenic into the Dan river.”</b> <a href="#">[WFMY News 2, 4/24/14]</a></p>
<p>Tillis floor footage        Super: <b>Thom Tillis.</b>        News headlines and pulled quotes.        “Citizens groups protest NC Legislature’s Coal Ash Bill”        Source: WSOC 9 News, 7/3/14</p> <p>“... \$10 billion cost for coal ash cleanup statewide”        Source: News &amp; Record, 7/3/14</p>	<p>Tillis let polluters off the hook... which could leave us with the bill.</p>	<p><b>Tillis praised “historic” coal ash bill, built support to pass it through the state House.</b> Tillis voted for Senate Bill 729, the Coal Ash Management Act of 2014, and also encouraged other members to support it. The Associated press reported that Tillis “encouraged members to vote for the bill, even if they disagree with some provisions. ‘This is unlike anything that’s been done in any other state. You have an opportunity to vote for something that’s historic,’ he said.” In a press release, Tillis said of the coal ash bill: “I am proud of our members who crafted this comprehensive bill, and I am confident that this plan will create a framework to protect North Carolinians now and in future</p>

		<p>generations.” [Senate Bill 729, <a href="#">House Vote 1769</a>, 7/3/14; <a href="#">Associated Press</a>, 7/3/14; <a href="#">Tillis press release</a>, 7/3/14]</p> <p><b>WSOC-TV: “Citizen groups protest NC Legislature’s coal ash bill.”</b> WSOC-TV reported, “A group of North Carolina citizens, along with Greenpeace, Appalachian Voices, and NC WARN, gathered outside the State Legislative Building on Thursday morning to protest the weakened coal ash bill set for the House's final vote. ... The groups of protesters believe that the highly debated coal ash bill, SB 729, does not represent the people of North Carolina and is an effort by the speaker of the House and U.S. Senate candidate Thom Tillis to serve Duke Energy's interests.” [<a href="#">WSOC-TV</a>, 7/3/14]</p> <p><b>News &amp; Record: Opponents say bill doesn’t “shield consumers from the estimated \$10 billion cost for coal ash cleanup statewide.”</b> The News &amp; Record reported, “Opponents [of the bill] echoed concerns of environmental groups, who said the bill doesn’t go far enough to protect water and shield consumers from the estimated \$10 billion cost for coal ash cleanup statewide.” [<a href="#">News &amp; Record</a>, 7/3/14]</p> <p><b>Coal ash bill leaves waters vulnerable to contamination and ratepayers at risk of clean-up costs.</b> The coal ash bill passed by the North Carolina state legislature fails to assign financial responsibility for cleanup to Duke Energy and its stockholders, leaving the likelihood that ratepayers will end up paying billions to correct Duke's coal ash management errors. It also allows coal ash pits to be "capped in place", avoiding genuine cleanup and leaving groundwater and surface waters vulnerable to continued leaking and contamination; fails to direct expeditious closure and cleanup of most coal ash pits, allowing long delays before corrective action; and authorizes a newly created Coal Ash Management Commission to delay cleanups and extend deadlines even further if it concludes that needed fixes are too expensive. [North Carolina League of Conservation Voters, <a href="#">Legislative Watch</a>, 7/7/14]</p>
--	--	--

		<p><b>Consumers could be left with bill for coal ash clean-up costs.</b> As the Charlotte Observer reported, neither the House nor Senate version of the coal ash bill “resolves whether customers will pay” for the clean-up. NC Policy Watch similarly noted that the House coal ash bill does not mandate that any clean-up costs “be borne by Duke and its shareholders.” [<a href="#">Charlotte Observer</a>, 7/3/14; <a href="#">NC Policy Watch</a>, 7/7/14]</p> <p><b>Fayetteville Observer editorial: “Coal-ash cleanup bill far short of our needs.”</b> In an editorial, the Fayetteville Observer wrote: “They’re not serious. It’s hard to come to any other conclusion. If the General Assembly really wanted to eliminate the threat posed by Duke Energy’s coal-ash storage ponds, it would have ordered an assessment of all 33 of the ponds and come up with specific instructions for the cleanup. Instead, lawmakers made cleanup mandatory for only four of them (all curiously close to the homes of powerful legislators) and left the details for the other 29 to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and Duke Energy - whose relationship over the years has been altogether too cordial. ... It appears our lawmakers have no intention of requiring Duke Energy to remove all the ash from its leaking, unlined storage pits and are willing to let the ash remain in place, where it will continue to find its way into the water table. So far, the General Assembly’s action on coal ash is edging perilously close to the Shakespearean “sound and fury, signifying nothing.” North Carolina deserves better.” [<a href="#">Fayetteville Observer editorial</a>, 7/5/14]</p> <p><b>NC House coal ash bill would let Duke Energy leave many coal ash sites in place, threatening the drinking water of millions.</b> According to NC Policy Watch, the House bill Tillis helped pass would give Duke Energy 15 years “to ‘close’ all coal ash sites – [and] Duke will be allowed to simply cover those deemed to be a ‘low risk’ with dirt and leave them in place.” NC Policy Watch further noted that 10 of the 14 Duke coal ash sites “could end up simply being ‘capped in place’ under Senate Bill 729 as it currently stands after approval by the House last week,” and 2.6</p>
--	--	--

		<p>million people could be “left unprotected who rely on drinking water intakes downstream from ten leaking Duke Energy coal ash sites not required to be cleaned up under the bill.” [<a href="#">NC Policy Watch</a>, 7/7/14]</p> <p><b>AP: Environmentalists say House bill is “putting the interest of Duke over protecting drinking water.”</b> The Associated Press reported, “Environmental groups say the House has weakened already weak legislation from the Senate, putting the interest of Duke over protecting drinking water. About a half dozen people in the House gallery held signs protesting the bill Thursday. ‘This is a protect Duke Energy bill, rather than a coal ash cleanup bill,’ said Frank Holleman, senior attorney for the Southern Environmental Law Center, which has sued Duke over coal ash pollution. Holleman said the legislation promises that scientists and experts will prioritize which sites get cleaned up first. But he said he's skeptical. ‘What scientists are they talking about? Engineers at Duke who have been operating these coal ash ponds all along? The political appointees at the Department of Environment and Natural Resources who haven't enforced the law for years?’ he said.” [<a href="#">Associated Press</a>, 7/3/14]</p> <p><b>N.C. Sierra Club: “Under Speaker Tillis’ leadership, the House failed” to protect North Carolinians “from Duke Energy’s toxic coal ash.”</b> The Charlotte Observer reported, “Environmental groups said the House changes weakened the Senate bill. The N.C. Sierra Club said the measure still lacks clear standards to ensure that water will be protected from contamination once ponds are closed. ‘The House missed the opportunity to build on the Senate's good start and to address key shortcomings in the legislation,’ the club said in a statement. ‘Under Speaker (Thom) Tillis' leadership, the House failed to make the final set of changes needed to give North Carolinians the protection they deserve from Duke Energy's toxic coal ash.’” [<a href="#">Charlotte Observer</a>, 7/3/14]</p>
<p>Tillis b-roll  <b>Super: Call Speaker Thom Tillis, (919) 733-3451. Keep</b></p>	<p>Call Speaker Tillis. Tell him to hold polluters accountable and keep our drinking water safe.</p>	<p><b>Legislators will now seek to reconcile the House and Senate versions of the bill.</b> The Charlotte Observer reported, “The coal-ash bill that sped</p>

NCLCV

Thom Tillis – “Happened Here”

7/7/14

<p><b>coal ash out of our water. Paid for by the North Carolina League of Conservation Voters.</b></p>		<p>through the N.C. House in three days now goes before legislators who will try to reconcile House-Senate versions that are broadly similar but have key differences.” The Associated Press similarly reported, “The bill now heads to a conference committee where lawmakers will work out differences between the House and Senate versions. If both houses approve a compromise, it will go to Gov. Pat McCrory for his signature.” [<a href="#">Charlotte Observer</a>, 7/3/14; <a href="#">Associated Press</a>, 7/3/14]</p>
--	--	--