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Office of Solid Waste

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# Environmental Fact Sheet

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## Large-volume Wastes from Coal-fired Electric Utilities Exempt as Hazardous Waste

*The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has determined that large-volume wastes from coal-fired electric utilities pose minimal risks to human health and the environment. Therefore, it is unnecessary to manage these wastes as hazardous. The Agency believes that industry and the states should continue to review appropriate management methods for these wastes.*

### Background

In a 1988 Report to Congress, EPA recommended that four large-volume wastes from coal-fired electric utilities—fly ash, bottom ash, boiler slag, and flue gas desulfurization waste—continue to be exempt from regulation as hazardous under Subtitle C of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA). The Report also indicated that the Agency intended to study the "remaining" wastes from coal-fired utilities, noncoal-fired utilities, and nonutility boilers burning any type of fossil fuels. Although the Agency recommended exemption for the large-volume wastes in its Report to Congress, EPA did not make a final regulatory determination on them.

Subsequently, the Agency collected data and information to supplement the 1988 Report to Congress. In February 1993, the Agency presented the new data and solicited public comment for purposes of finalizing the regulatory status of large-volume wastes from the combustion of coal by electric utilities.

### Action

This rule continues to exempt four large-volume, fossil fuel combustion wastes from regulation as hazardous waste. Fly ash, bottom ash, boiler slag, and flue gas desulfurization wastes generated from coal-fired utilities pose minimal risks to human health and the environment. EPA recommends that any potential problems associated with the management of these wastes be addressed on a site-specific

basis. These waste streams also will be considered for inclusion in the Agency's continuing assessment of industrial solid waste under RCRA, Subtitle D.

## **Contact**

For additional information or to order a copy of the *Federal Register* notice, contact the RCRA Hotline, Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. EST. The national, toll-free number is (800) 424-9346; TDD (800) 553-7672 (hearing impaired); in Washington, D.C., the number is (703) 412-9810, TDD (703) 412-3323.

Copies of documents relevant to this rule may be obtained by writing: RCRA Information Center (RIC), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Solid Waste (OS-305), 401 M Street SW, Washington, D.C. 20460.