

# You Can Help!

- Invite SSP to your community center, church or house to talk about clean water, the impacts of sludge and safe alternatives
- If you think you may have bad water, contact SSP at **304-896-9622**. We are here to help!
- Learn more at [www.SludgeSafety.org](http://www.SludgeSafety.org)
- Call your representatives. Tell them what you think about sludge.
- Join the movement! Become an OVEC member and a CRMW member.
- Volunteer with SSP! We need your help. Call **304-896-9622** or [info@SludgeSafety.org](mailto:info@SludgeSafety.org)



*Help us make sure that all West Virginians have access to clean water!*



Join SSP to advocate for clean water and healthy communities for all West Virginians!



## Sludge Safety Project

*A Project of Ohio Valley Environmental Coalition, Coal River Mountain Watch, and West Virginia Communities.*

### Contact SSP

304-896-9622

P.O. Box 6753

Huntington, WV 25773-6753

[info@sludgesafety.org](mailto:info@sludgesafety.org)

[www.sludgesafety.org](http://www.sludgesafety.org)

# Sludge Safety Project

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*Photo: Oct. 2000 Cleanup of Coal Sludge Spill*

Together, Making Our Communities Safer

## Coal Sludge Facts

### What is Coal Sludge?

The liquid waste created when coal is washed and processed. This happens after the coal is mined and before it is shipped to power plants.

### What is in Coal Sludge?

Coal sludge or slurry contains toxic chemicals used to wash coal and heavy metals. The chemicals wash off the metals so that coal can be burned. These heavy metals include mercury, lead, arsenic, selenium, chromium, cadmium, and boron.

### Where is Coal Sludge Kept?

Dams of mine refuse hold back huge lakes of waste – up to **9 billion gallons** of sludge.

Slurry (watered down sludge) is also pumped underground into abandoned mines or other empty cavities. **Billions of gallons** of slurry have been pumped into West Virginia's mountains.



Brushy Fork Impoundment,  
Whitesville WV

## Coal Sludge Impacts

### Underground Injection Impacts: *A Public Health Crisis*

Slurry can travel underground and poison drinking wells. Heavy metals in slurry are sometimes thousands of times greater than safe drinking water limits.

Water poisoned by slurry can cause serious health problems –birth defects, cancers, skin rashes, hair loss, attention deficit disorder in children, kidney problems and more.



### Sludge Impoundment Impacts: *Public Safety Emergencies*

Impoundments are public safety emergencies waiting to happen.

These huge unlined impoundments leach chemicals and metals into local streams, poisoning streams and rivers.

Impoundment dams have broken and burst, burying local communities under literal walls of toxic sludge. The Buffalo Creek dam break and Martin County impoundment burst proved that sludge ponds pose a constant emergency threat to local communities.

## Clean Water Action

### Organizing with Community Leaders

SSP is a community-led organizing project run by community leaders and concerned citizens of WV working to support areas that have been impacted by coal slurry injections and impoundments, such as Prenter & Rawl WV.

Our work with these communities includes:

- Getting local residents emergency water
- Getting municipal water lines extended to the community
- Supporting local residents as experts in media outreach, lobbying & statewide advocacy

### Advocating for Clean Water Laws

The Sludge Safety Project aggressively advocates for an end to slurry production in WV.

### *There is a better way!*

We are for a state law to ban underground injections and impoundments. Coal companies can and should use dry coal processing methods. For more on alternatives to toxic coal slurry, see [www.SludgeSafety.org/Alternatives.html](http://www.SludgeSafety.org/Alternatives.html).

Clean water is a right – not a privilege. We are working to see that our state ensures that all West Virginians have access to clean, healthy water.