

Visual	Audio	Documentation
<p>Shots of coal ash spill in Dan River.</p> <p><b>Coal ash spills into Dan River --Greensboro News &amp; Record</b></p>	<p>It didn't have to happen.</p> <p>The massive coal ash spill in the Dan River.</p>	<p><b>News &amp; Record: "Coal Ash Spills Into Dan River"</b></p> <p>On February 4, 2014, the <u>News &amp; Record</u> published an article entitled "Coal Ash Spills Into Dan River." [<u>News &amp; 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>Shot of Pat McCrory</p>	<p>But Governor Pat McCrory didn't do his job.</p>	<p><b>McCrory Administration Shielded Duke Energy</b></p> <p>According to an <u>Associated Press</u> article entitled "NC regulators shielded Duke's coal ash pollution," the McCrory administration has blocked environmental groups from suing Duke Energy.</p> <p>From the <u>Associated Press</u>:</p> <p>Over the last year, environmental groups have tried three times to use the federal Clean Water Act to force Duke Energy to clear out leaky coal ash dumps like the one that ruptured last week, spewing enough toxic sludge into a North Carolina river to fill 73 Olympic-sized pools.</p>

Each time, they say, their efforts have been stymied — by the N.C. Department of Environment and Natural Resources.  
[AssociatedPress, 2/9/14]

**McCrory Has Turned DENR into a “Weak Sentry that... Has Abandoned Its Regulatory Role”**

According to the New York Times, “Current and former state regulators said the watchdog agency, once among the most aggressive in the Southeast, has been transformed under Gov. Pat McCrory into a weak sentry that plays down science, has abandoned its regulatory role and suffers from politicized decision-making.” [New York Times, 2/28/14]

**Critics: Spill is “Inextricably Linked to State’s new Environmental Policies”**

According to the New York Times, “Critics say the accident, the third-largest coal ash spill on record, is inextricably linked to the state’s new environmental politics and reflects an enforcement agency led by a secretary who suggested that oil was a renewable resource and an assistant secretary who, as a state lawmaker, drew a bull’s-eye on a window in his office framing the environmental agency’s

headquarters.” [New York Times, 2/28/14]

**DENR Staff Threatened with Firings if They Didn't Follow McCrory's Plan to Gut Enforcement**

According to the New York Times, Department of Environment and Natural Resources employees responsible for enforcing water pollution laws were threatened with firings if they failed to implement McCrory's new policies.

From the New York Times:

Last June, state employees in charge of stopping water pollution were given updated marching orders on behalf of North Carolina's new Republican governor and conservative lawmakers.

“The General Assembly doesn't like you,” an official in the Department of Environment and Natural Resources told supervisors called to a drab meeting room here. “They cut your budget, but you didn't get the message. And they cut your budget again, and you still didn't get the message.”

From now on,

regulators were told, they must focus on customer service, meaning issuing environmental permits for businesses as quickly as possible. Big changes are coming, the official said, according to three people in the meeting, two of whom took notes. “If you don’t like change, you’ll be gone.” [New York Times, 2/28/14]

**Federal Investigation Into Ties Between Duke, McCrory Administration Ongoing**

According to the New York Times, “Federal prosecutors have begun a criminal investigation into the spill and the relations between Duke and regulators at the environmental agency.” [New York Times, 2/28/14]

**McCrory Worked for Duke Energy for 28 Years**

According to a report in the Associated Press, Governor Pat McCrory worked for Duke Energy for 28 years. McCrory retired in 2008 when he made his first unsuccessful run for Governor. [Associated Press, 2/9/14]

**McCrory’s 2013 Ethics Form Showed At Least \$10k in Duke Energy Stock**

According to a report in the

Associated Press, on a 2013 state ethics form, McCrory indicated that his investment portfolio includes holdings of Duke stock valued in excess of \$10,000, though he is not obligated to disclose the specific amount. [[Associated Press, 2/15/14](#)]

### **McCrory Aided by At Least \$1.1 Million from Duke Energy**

According to the [Associated Press](#), “Since his unsuccessful first campaign for governor in 2008, campaign finance reports show Duke Energy, its political action committee, executives and their immediate families have donated at least \$1.1 million to McCrory's campaign and affiliated groups that spent on TV ads, mailings and events to support him.” [[Associated Press, 2/9/14](#)]

### **McCrory Signed Sweeping Regulatory ‘Reform’ Bill**

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.

According to the North Carolina League of Conservation Voters, the bill “brings together a number of anti-conservation provisions found in other bills, including:

		<p>allowing state regulations to expire if they do not undergo a 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><b>Citizen-Times: Bill Loosened Rules to Protect Against Coal Ash</b></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</p>
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		<p>state House and Senate lawmakers last month,” the <u>Citizen-Times</u> reported. “The 60 provisions include laxer restrictions on landfills, allowing billboard owners to cut down more trees near interstate exit ramps and preventing counties and cities from passing environmental rules more stringent than state or federal ones.”</p> <p>According to D.J. Gerken, a senior attorney with the Southern Environmental Law Center, the provisions affecting coal ash storage ponds remove requirements for groundwater cleanup in designated "containment areas" around ash ponds except for when there's an imminent hazard to public health. [<u>Asheville Citizen-Times</u>, 8/18/13]</p>
<p><b>N.C. Gov. McCrory briefed on... coal ash lawsuit --AP News</b></p>	<p>McCrory knew the coal ash pits were dangerous – full of toxic chemicals – arsenic, lead, chromium – and now they’re in the water.</p>	<p><b>McCrory Worked for Duke Energy for 28 Years</b></p> <p>According to a report in the <u>Associated Press</u>, Governor Pat McCrory worked for Duke Energy for 28 years. McCrory retired in 2008 when he made his first unsuccessful run for Governor. [<u>Associated Press</u>, 2/9/14]</p> <p><b>McCrory Briefed on Coal Ash Lawsuit</b></p> <p>According to the Associated Press, “North Carolina's top environmental official said Monday that he briefed Gov.</p>

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.” [Associated Press, 2/17/14]

**News & Record: “Coal Ash Spills Into Dan River”**

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**Arsenic, Lead and Selenium Are Found in Coal Ash**

According to the New York Times, “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.” [New York Times, 2/6/14]

**Citizen-Times: Chromium and Other Materials Typically-Found in Coal Ash Can Be Cancer-Causing**

According to the Asheville Citizen-Times, “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.” [Citizen-Times, 2/10/14]

**CNN: Dan River Water Samples Showed Evidence of Chromium**

According to CNN, “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.

		<p>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.</p> <p>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, 2/20/09]</p>
<p>Shot of coal ash in the water.  <b>Bill eases rules on coal ash ponds</b>  <b>--Asheville Citizen-Times</b></p> <p>Shot of coal ash pit.</p>	<p>McCrory even signed a law that rolled back protections on groundwater pollution near coal ash ponds.</p>	<p><b>McCrory Signed Sweeping Regulatory 'Reform' Bill</b></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 costly and time-consuming review process every ten years; prohibiting local</p>

		<p>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><b>Citizen-Times: Bill Loosened Rules to Protect Against Coal Ash</b></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 <u>Citizen-Times</u> reported. “The 60 provisions include laxer restrictions on landfills,</p>
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Shot of McCrory at news conference with coal ash dripping off his hands.	Pat McCrory has coal ash on his hands.	
Shot of pollution in Dan River.  <b>Clean It Up.</b>	It's time we made him clean it up.	
<b>PAID FOR NRDC</b>		