

For Immediate Release



Contact: American Coal Ash Association
Thomas H. Adams, Executive Director
Office: 720-870-7897 Mobile: 720-375-2998
thadams@aca-usa.org
www.acaa-usa.org

New EPA Study Reconfirms Environmental Safety of Fly Ash Concrete and Synthetic Gypsum Wallboard

February 7, 2014, Farmington Hills, MI — The American Coal Ash Association (“ACAA”) today applauded the release of a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency study that reconfirms the environmental safety of using Coal Combustion Products (“CCP”) in two prominent applications.

EPA’s new study concludes the use of coal fly ash in concrete and synthetic gypsum in wallboard are safe and appropriate beneficial uses.

“...Environmental releases of constituents of potential concern (COPCs) from CCR fly ash concrete and FGD gypsum wallboard during use by the consumer are comparable to or lower than those from analogous non-CCR products, or are at or below relevant regulatory and health-based benchmarks for human and ecological receptors.” the EPA said in its report. “EPA supports the beneficial use of coal fly ash in concrete and FGD gypsum in wallboard. The Agency believes that these beneficial uses provide significant opportunities to advance Sustainable Materials Management (SMM).”

“We appreciate EPA’s effort in conducting this thorough evaluation of the safety of coal ash use,” said Thomas H. Adams, ACAA Executive Director. “This study reconfirms what we have learned through decades of successful beneficial use. Coal ash use is safe and should be encouraged.”

EPA’s study was released as the Agency also moved to conclude a protracted coal ash disposal rulemaking that created regulatory uncertainty for many ash users. The Agency has established a December 19, 2014, deadline to finalize ash disposal rules and has strongly signaled that those rules will avoid any “hazardous waste” designation.

“Using coal ash instead of throwing it away benefits our environment and economy in myriad ways,” said Adams. “It is encouraging to see the EPA taking actions that support these environmentally beneficial practices. We look forward to using this positive information to promote increased utilization of these strategic resources.”

About Coal Ash Beneficial Use

Coal remains the largest fuel source for generating electricity in America and produces large volumes of coal ash — the generic term for several solid materials left over from the combustion process. There are many good reasons to view coal ash as a resource, rather than a waste. Using it conserves natural resources, saves energy and significantly reduces greenhouse gas emissions from the manufacturing of products that are replaced. In many cases, products made with coal ash perform better than products made without it. For instance, coal ash makes concrete stronger and more durable. The American Road and Transportation Builders Association estimates use of coal fly ash in concrete roads and bridges saves highway builders more than \$5 billion per year.

Major uses of coal ash include concrete, gypsum wallboard, blasting grit, roofing granules, and a variety of geotechnical and agricultural applications.

The American Coal Ash Association was established in 1968 as a trade organization devoted to recycling the materials created when we burn coal to generate electricity. Our members comprise the world's foremost experts on coal ash (fly ash and bottom ash), and boiler slag, flue gas desulfurization gypsum or "synthetic" gypsum, and other "FGD" materials captured by emissions controls. While other organizations focus on disposal issues, ACAA's mission is to advance the management and use of coal combustion products in ways that are: environmentally responsible; technically sound; commercially competitive; and supportive of a sustainable global community. www.acaa-usa.org