## For Immediate Release

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# Coal Ash Recycling Rates Decline
# As Regulatory Uncertainty and "Toxic" Publicity Continue

**December 13, 2011**, **Washington, D.C.** — Coal ash recycling in the United States declined in 2010 – reversing a decade of growth of a practice that conserves energy and natural resources, reduces greenhouse gas emissions, and safely keeps ash out of landfills and disposal ponds.

The turnaround occurred as the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency proposed coal ash regulations that could designate the material as "hazardous waste" when disposed. Growing numbers of ash producers, specifiers and users have began reducing coal ash use in light of the regulatory uncertainty and publicity surrounding EPA's activities.

"We are about to enter the fourth year of an EPA rulemaking process that seems to have no end in sight," said Thomas H. Adams, executive director of the American Coal Ash Association – an organization that advances the environmentally responsible and technically sound use of coal ash as an alternative to disposal. "Our worst fears are being confirmed. The ongoing regulatory uncertainty and a drumbeat of misleading publicity about the toxicity of coal ash are combining to cause decreases in the beneficial use of the material. The loser, unfortunately, is the environment as millions more tons of coal ash needlessly wind up in landfills."

According to ACAA's just-released "Production and Use Survey," 42.5 percent of the 130.2 million tons of coal ash produced in 2010 was beneficially used. That recycling rate is a decline from 44.3 percent in 2009 and a significant reversal of the previous decade's trend.

"Throughout the 1990s, recycling rates were in the 20s," said Adams. "In 2000, when the recycling rate was 29.7 percent, the EPA issued its Final Regulatory Determination that regulation of ash as a 'hazardous waste' was not warranted. Over the next eight years, EPA also began actively promoting the beneficial use of coal ash and the recycling rate soared to 44.5 percent in spite of steadily increasing volumes of the amount of coal ash produced."

The recycling rate stalled in 2008 and 2009 as EPA reopened its coal ash regulatory agenda following the failure of a coal ash disposal facility in Tennessee. In 2010, the recycling rate declined to 42.5 percent and the absolute volume of material recycled declined to 55.3 million tons – down from 60.6 million tons in 2008.

"Supporters of a 'hazardous waste' designation for coal ash disposal like to say that higher disposal costs will lead to more recycling. This real world evidence – coupled with the growing list of people ceasing the use of coal ash – completely contradicts that simplistic argument," said Adams. "The fact is that coal ash disposal costs did not change much between the 1990s and 2000s. What caused the dramatic growth of recycling in the 2000s was regulatory certainty that encouraged people to invest in recycling rather than disposal and a supportive EPA that actively encouraged recycling. All of that is gone now. EPA's 'Final' Regulatory Determination turned out not to be 'Final' and the Agency has abandoned its support or even meaningful discussion of coal ash recycling."

Adams said coal ash recycling is also being harmed by publicity activities of groups lobbying for a "hazardous waste" designation. "A steady stream of publicity about 'toxic' coal ash is causing people to shy away from using the material out of concern for its safety or potential legal liability of using a 'toxic' substance," said Adams. "Science tells a different story. Coal ash does not qualify as a 'hazardous waste' based on its toxicity. The trace levels of metals in coal ash are similar to the levels of metals in the materials coal ash replaces when it is recycled. But well-funded groups are spending millions of dollars to brand the material as 'toxic' and the effects of this short-sighted campaign are beginning to show in the reduction of environmentally beneficial recycling."

**About Coal Ash Recycling**

Almost half of America's electricity is generated by burning coal. Generating that much electricity produces large volumes of coal ash — the generic term for several solid materials left over from the combustion process.

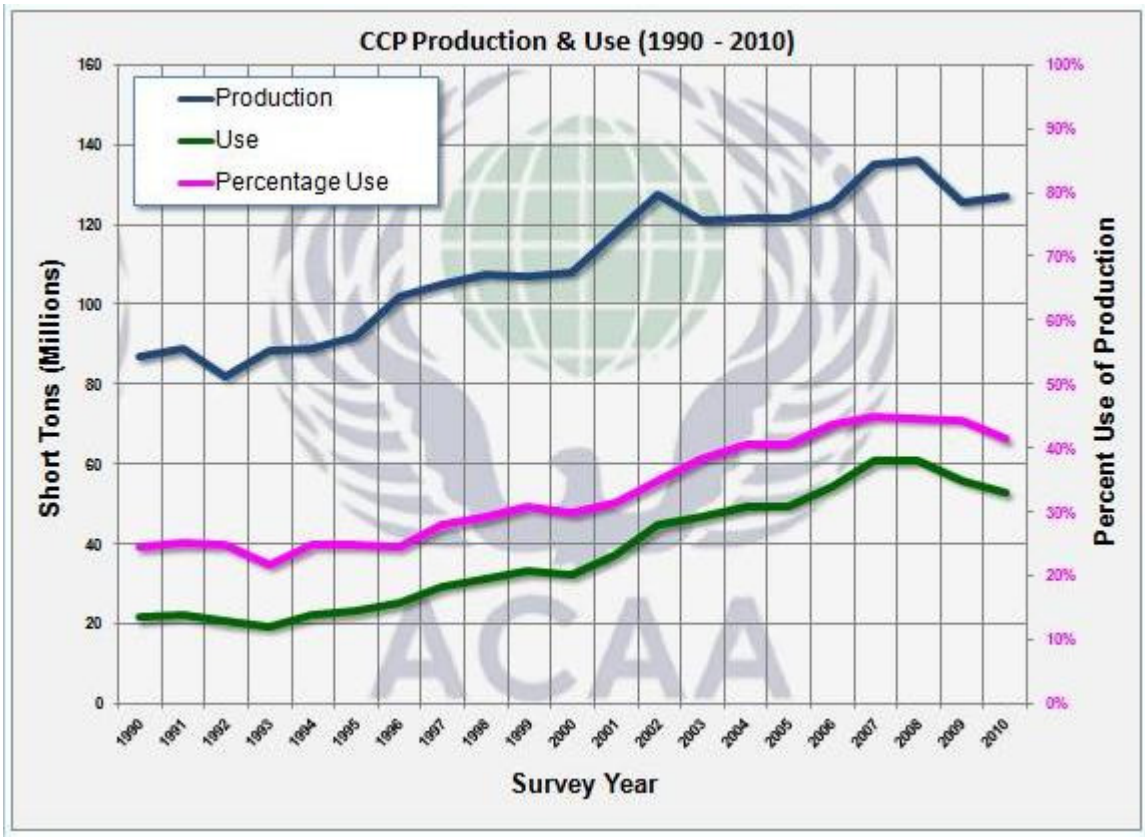
There are many good reasons to view coal ash as a resource, rather than a waste. Recycling it conserves natural resources and saves energy. In many cases, products made with coal ash perform better than products made without it. For instance, coal ash makes concrete stronger and more durable. It also reduces the need to manufacture cement, resulting in significant reductions in greenhouse gas emissions. About 11 million tons of greenhouse gas emissions were avoided by using coal ash to replace cement in 2010 alone.

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

**About ACAA's Production and Use Survey**

The American Coal Ash Association has conducted a survey quantifying the production and use of coal ash in the United States each year since 1966. Data is compiled by directly surveying electric utilities and utilizing additional data produced by the U.S. Energy Information Administration. The survey's results have been widely adopted by federal agencies including the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and U.S. Geological Survey.

A summary of production and use data from the past 20 years is represented by the following chart and a complete copy of the 2010 survey results is on the following page.

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***The American Coal Ash Association was established more than 40 years ago, 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.***

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# 2010 Coal Combustion Product (CCP) Production & Use Survey Report

Beneficial Utilization versus Production Totals (Short Tons)

| CCP Categories | Fly Ash** | Bottom Ash** | Boiler Slag* | FGD Gypsum** | FGD Material Wet Scrubbers* | FGD Material Dry Scrubbers* | FGD Other* | FBC Ash* | CCP Production / Utilization Totals |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2010 Total CCPs Produced by Category | 67,700,000 | 17,800,000 | 2,332,944 | 22,000,000 | 8,670,814 | 1,405,952 | 3,740 | 10,267,914 | 130,181,364 |
| 2010 Total CCPs Used by Category | 25,723,217 | 7,541,732 | 1,418,996 | 10,713,138 | 624,223 | 584,112 | 0 | 8,732,008 | 55,337,426 |
| 1. Concrete/Concrete Products /Grout | 11,016,097 | 615,332 | 0 | 21,045 | 0 | 16,847 | 0 | 0 | 11,669,321 |
| 2. Blended Cement/ Raw Feed for Clinker | 2,045,797 | 949,183 | 3,000 | 1,135,211 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4,133,191 |
| 3. Flowable Fill | 135,321 | 52,414 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 13,998 | 0 | 0 | 201,733 |
| 4. Structural Fills/Embankments | 4,675,992 | 3,124,549 | 78,647 | 454,430 | 424,581 | 358,019 | 0 | 0 | 9,116,218 |
| 5. Road Base/Sub-base | 242,952 | 715,357 | 3,128 | 0 | 3,018 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 964,455 |
| 6. Soil Modification/Stabilization | 785,552 | 162,065 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 19,189 | 0 | 0 | 966,806 |
| 7. Snow and Ice Control | 0 | 549,520 | 41,194 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 590,714 |
| 8. Blasting Grit/Roofing Granules | 86,484 | 19,914 | 1,257,571 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1,363,969 |
| 9. Mining Applications | 2,399,837 | 528,881 | 0 | 835,536 | 186,624 | 112,373 | 0 | 8,660,408 | 12,723,659 |
| 10. Gypsum Panel Products | 109 | 0 | 0 | 7,661,527 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 7,661,636 |
| 11. Waste Stabilization/Solidification | 3,258,825 | 41,233 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 39,283 | 0 | 71,600 | 3,410,941 |
| 12. Agriculture | 22,220 | 4,674 | 0 | 481,827 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 508,721 |
| 13. Aggregate | 6,726 | 555,031 | 27,155 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 588,912 |
| 14. Miscellaneous/Other | 1,047,305 | 223,579 | 8,301 | 123,562 | 10,000 | 24,403 | 0 | 0 | 1,437,150 |

Summary Utilization to Production Rate

| CCP Categories | Fly Ash | Bottom Ash | Boiler Slag | FGD Gypsum | FGD Material Wet Scrubbers | FGD Material Dry Scrubbers | FGD Other | FBC Ash | CCP Utilization Total** |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2010 Totals by CCP Type/Application | 25,723,217 | 7,541,732 | 1,418,996 | 10,713,138 | 624,223 | 584,112 | 0 | 8,732,008 | 55,337,426 |
| Category Use to Production Rate (%)*** | 37.90% | 42.30% | 60.80% | 48.60% | 7.10% | 41.50% | | 85.00% | 42.50% |
| 2010 Cenospheres Sold (Pounds) | 15,485,980 | | | | | | | | |

ACAA received survey data representing 231,379 MegaWatts Name Plate capacity of the total industry-wide approximate 327,983 capacity (i.e., 69.7%) or approximatley 67% of the coal-fueled electric utility generation as reported by EIA

* These are actual tonnages reported by utilities responding and **do not reflect estimates for utilities that did not respond** this year.

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**These numbers are derived from previous, current and applicable industry-wide available data, including Energy Information Administration (EIA) Reports 923 and 860 and other outside sources.

***Utilization estimates are based on actual tons reported and on **extrapolated estimates for fly ash, bottom ash, and FGD gypsum;**