

Joppa Power Plant

The Joppa Power Plant is a coal-fired, electric generating plant located at 2100 Portland Road in the Village of Joppa, Illinois, and is owned by Electric Energy Inc. ("EEI"). The plant is scheduled to be retired by September of 2022. By 2025, the site will be converted into a battery energy storage center under the "*Illinois Coal to Solar & Energy Storage Initiative*" enacted as part of the Illinois Energy Transition Act.

Recently Detected Elevated Levels of Boron

Groundwater monitoring stations recently installed near the plant's property boundary pursuant to the requirements of Illinois's new coal ash rule have detected elevated levels of boron in groundwater. The detected levels of boron at these monitoring stations exceeding the applicable state groundwater standard of 2.0 milligrams per liter (mg/L) range from 3.4 mg/L to 6.94 mg/L.



These elevated levels of boron have been detected in the groundwater at depths of 55 to 130 feet below the ground's surface. There is a possibility that the constituent has moved off EEI's property and that elevated levels of boron may be found in the groundwater to the east and southeast of the plant.

There is no evidence that groundwater in the lower aquifer, which supplies the Village's public water supply well, has been impacted. The lower aquifer is separated from the upper aquifer by a confining layer of silt and clay. The top of the lower aquifer begins at a depth of 140 feet below the ground's surface, and the Village's public supply well collects water from between 180 to 240 feet below the surface.

Data Collection and Off-site Investigation

To determine the scope and location of potential boron exceedances, EEI is installing additional groundwater monitoring stations on its property. EEI will also be working with the Village of Joppa to install several additional monitoring stations in strategic locations to the east and southeast of the Plant property. This data will help EEI determine where the boron exceedances are and are not located. The monitoring stations will be tested for other constituents to ensure officials have a complete understanding of the groundwater.

Data collection will conclude by late summer 2022, and EEI will share the results with the community.

What You Can Do

EEI is also working to gather additional data, including installing monitoring stations that will collect further data samples and develop a detailed understanding of the extent of boron exceedances. Out of an abundance of caution and to assist with data collection, we ask that any property owner in the Village of Joppa with a private irrigation or drinking water well contact EEI to have their well tested. We will cover the cost of the testing and will provide the test results to the well owner.

You can contact EEI to request a well test at <u>www.renewillinoispower.com/joppa</u> or by calling 214-812-5777.

What Is Boron

Boron is an element found in fruits, vegetables, and even seawater. Many everyday items such as cosmetics, dietary supplements, and cleaning products contain boron.

The table from the **National Institutes of Health Office of Dietary Supplements** details concentrations of boron that occur naturally.

Boron is available in dietary supplements containing only boron and also containing boron in combination with a few other nutrients, often other minerals. Common amounts of elemental boron in nutritional supplements range from 0.15 to 6 milligrams.

Food	Milligrams of born per serving
Prune juice, 1 cup	1.43
Avocado, raw, cubed, ½ cup	1.07
Raisins, 1.5 ounces	0.95
Peaches, medium-sized	0.80

Government Source Link: https://ods.od.nih.gov/factsheets/Boron-HealthProfessional

Health Impacts of Boron Consumption

While boron is naturally occurring, studies have been conducted to determine if ingestion of boron in high concentrations adversely impacts human health. Excess boron consumption can potentially cause health impacts, but the current detected levels of boron in the upper aquifer at the property boundary are *significantly less* than the concentrations associated with health impacts in various studies.

To provide you with additional resources and access to government-created resources on the health impacts of boron, we've created a webpage with briefings, infographics, and hyperlinks to trusted resources. Please visit **www.renewillinoispower.com/joppa** for more information.

What EEI Is Doing About Boron Now

EEI is taking swift action to collect additional data and has already begun work to implement interim corrective measures ahead of a permanent closure plan for the East Ash Pond. EEI is also in the process of implementing a pilot study to evaluate the extraction of groundwater to help redirect it before it potentially moves off the plant's property. This system would collect the extracted water and then manage it appropriately.

Making the extraction system operational requires further data collection, testing, and permitting, but EEI is moving promptly to have the groundwater extraction system permit-ready by fall 2022.

How EEI Will Address Groundwater Standard Exceedances

EEI remains committed to the Joppa community and energy workers at the site to ensure that a responsible retirement and just transition occur as the plant move site moves to its future use as an energy storage center bringing jobs and property tax base to the community. Working with the community and Illinois EPA, EEI will address any exceedances of various residual substances, including boron, on or around the plant's property.

Closing The Plant's East Ash Pond As Part of the Plant Retirement Process

Coal plants relied on man-made ponds to collect the byproducts of burning coal to make electricity, known as coal combustion residuals or CCR. The byproducts are stored wet in the ponds, referred to as "surface impoundments" or "coal ash ponds."

It is now time for EEI to permanently close the East Ash Pond. State regulations known as "Part 845" ensure that CCR is disposed of in ways that protect the environment and public health. Any approved closure plan will be guided by science to ensure the permanent closure is protective of public health and the environment.

Next Steps In "Part 845" Public Process

By June 1, the company will make available the draft closure documents for the East Ash Pond on the company's publicly accessible CCR website, <u>https://www.luminant.com/ccr</u>. There will be local public meetings on the draft permit in June, and the plant will post detailed information in advance and in the formats required by state regulations.