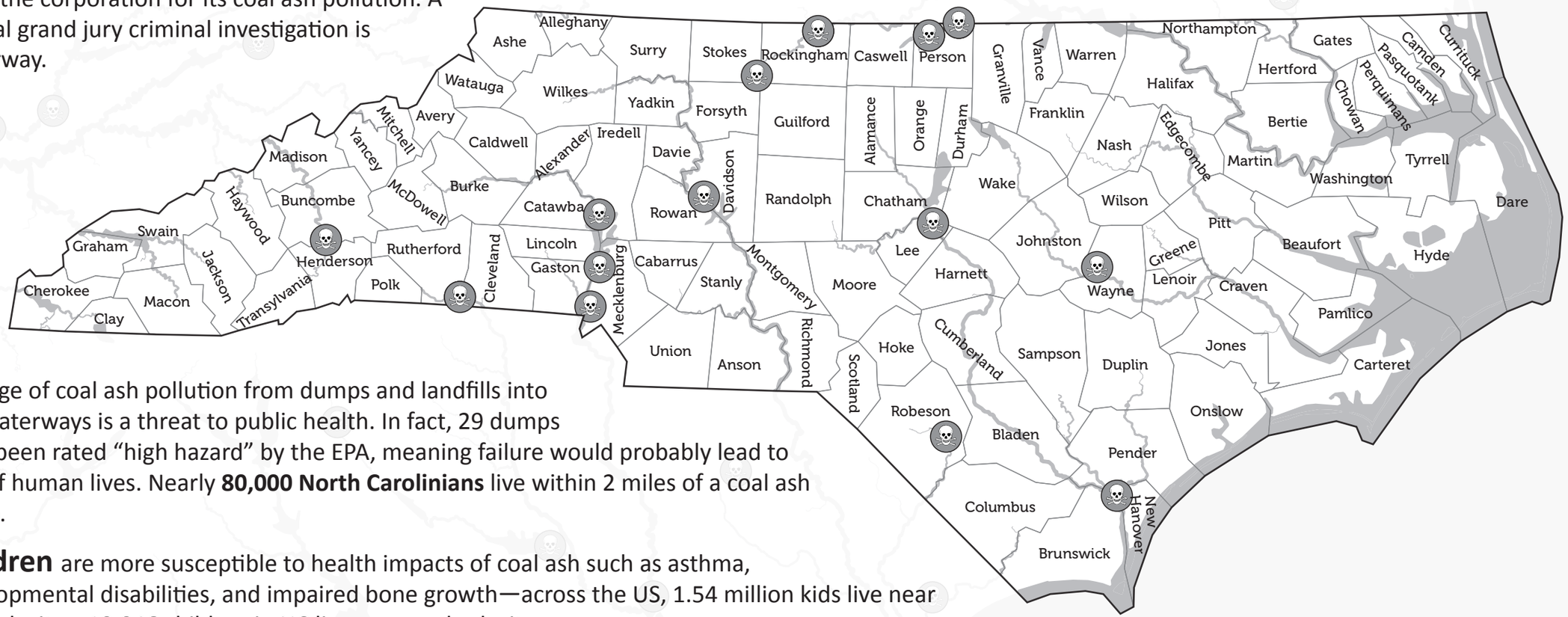
Coal Ash Dumps in NC

On February 2, 2014 one of **Duke Energy's coal ash dumps** burst, emptying **39,000 tons of toxic sludge into the Dan River**, coating the riverbed for 70 miles downstream. The public was not notified for over 24 hours. For the preceding year, Governor McCrory's administration blocked NC environmentalists from suing the corporation for its coal ash pollution. A federal grand jury criminal investigation is underway.

This preventable disaster caused huge suffering, and it could have happened anywhere in our state. NC has at least 50 reported toxic coal ash dumps, containing at least 16 billion gallons of coal combustion waste. That's enough to cover 38,662 football fields one foot deep.



Leakage of coal ash pollution from dumps and landfills into our waterways is a threat to public health. In fact, 29 dumps have been rated "high hazard" by the EPA, meaning failure would probably lead to loss of human lives. Nearly **80,000 North Carolinians** live within 2 miles of a coal ash dump.

Children are more susceptible to health impacts of coal ash such as asthma, developmental disabilities, and impaired bone growth—across the US, 1.54 million kids live near coal ash sites. 19,046 children in NC live near coal ash sites.

People of color make up more than 20,000 of those located near coal ash dumps in NC.

People living in poverty: Across the United States, 70% of coal ash dumps are located where the household income is below the national median, the same areas with **less access to healthcare, education and voting rights.**

Data: Southern Alliance for Clean Energy / secoalash.org
Map: Tim Stallmann

Where do we go from here?

Duke Energy and Governor McCrory's administration, take notice. **North Carolina rate-payers will not pay for your mess.** We need clean energy and environmental justice, not corruption.

Duke Energy and its shareholders must fulfill CEO Lynn Good's publicly stated commitment to pay for the immediate cleanup of the ongoing spill of coal ash into the Dan River.

Duke Energy and its shareholders must pay for the cleanup and site remediation at all of Duke Energy's coal ash dumps (often called "ponds"), beginning immediately. For many years, Duke Energy executives and shareholders have profited from what Duke Energy considered a cheap solution to a serious toxic waste problem, so the burden for cleanup now rightfully belongs to them.

Living near a coal ash dump is more dangerous than smoking a pack of cigarettes a day. Coal ash contains toxic pollutants causing cancer and neurological, cardiovascular, and reproductive damage. We reject responses that disproportionately harm communities of color, low-income communities, or others that polluters have historically perceived as lacking the ability to resist.

Given the clear absence of a responsible plan for managing coal waste, and given the many hazards and costs of coal, Duke Energy must begin to rapidly phase out all of its coal-fired power plants so that no more of this toxic waste needs to be stored or dumped in North Carolina.

North Carolina NAACP
www.naacpnc.org

NC WARN
www.ncwarn.org

Rogers-Eubanks Neighborhood Association
www.rena-center.com

Mercury*
Mercury poses particular risk to children, infants and fetuses. Impacts include nervous system damage and developmental defects like reduced IQ and mental retardation.

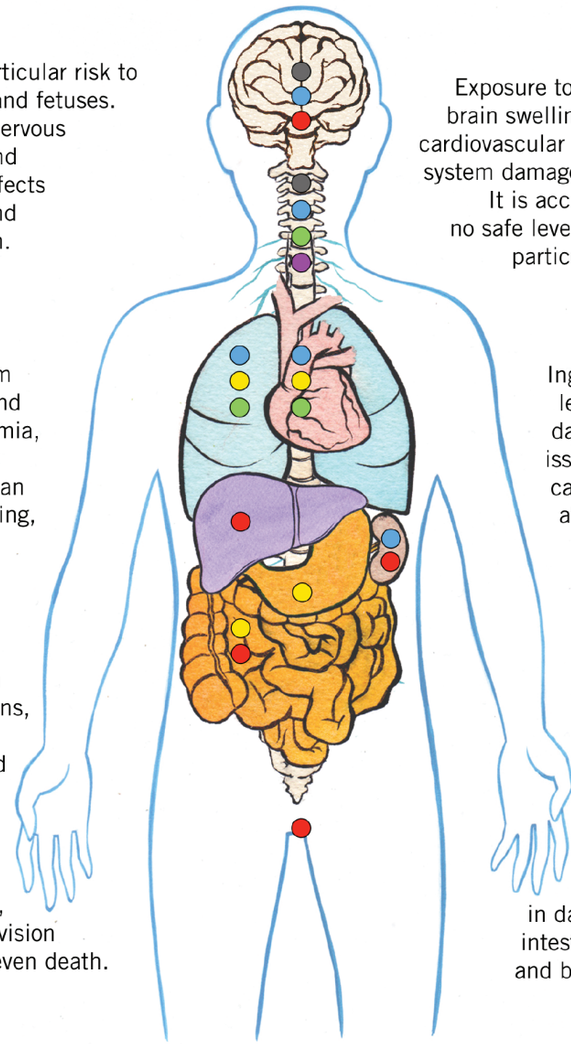
Lead*
Exposure to lead can result in brain swelling, kidney disease, cardiovascular problems, nervous system damage, and even death. It is accepted that there is no safe level of lead exposure, particularly for children.

Chromium
Ingestion of chromium can cause stomach and intestinal ulcers, anemia, and stomach cancer. Frequent inhalation can cause asthma, wheezing, and lung cancer.

Arsenic*
Ingestion of arsenic can lead to nervous system damage, cardiovascular issues, and urinary tract cancers. Inhalation and absorption through the skin can result in lung cancer and skin cancer, respectively.

Selenium
Selenium is used in many bodily functions, but deficiencies or excesses can be bad for one's health. Excess intake of selenium can result in a host of neurological effects, including impaired vision and paralysis, and even death.

Boron
Inhalation of boron can lead over the short-term to eye, nose, and throat irritation. Ingestion of large amounts, however, can result in damage to the testes, intestines, liver, kidneys, and brain, and eventually lead to death.



Other Toxicants

Antimony
Eye, skin irritation
Stomach pain, ulcers
Lung disease

Cadmium
Emphysema
Kidney disease
Hypertension
Lung cancer

Molybdenum
In animals:
Slowed growth
Low birth weight
Infertility

Thallium
Nervous system damage
Lung, heart, liver, kidney problems

*Children are particularly at risk

graphic: Physicians for Social Responsibility and Earth Justice