

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What is this action about?

The Board of Commissioners has issued a formal Notice of Intent to Sue under federal law to protect the community's raw drinking water source near the former Beckjord plant. The Notice uses the legal process Congress provided to address risks from unlined coal ash ponds that are in contact with groundwater flowing toward the County's wellfield.

Q: Is my drinking water safe?

Yes. The water delivered to residents is safe because the County rigorously tests and treats it. This action is about protecting the raw water source before treatment so it stays that way.

Q: Who received the Notice?

The Notice was sent to current and former owners and operators of the former Beckjord plant, consistent with federal law.

Q: What is coal ash?

Coal ash is a byproduct of generating electricity from coal and includes several types of residuals from power plants. Federal law allows communities to act when disposal practices threaten public health or the environment.

Q: What happens next?

Federal law requires notice periods before any lawsuit can be filed, and if the issues are not resolved in that window, the County intends to seek relief in federal court. Because this matter is moving toward litigation, the Commissioners are not able to discuss case specifics while the process is underway.

Q: Will this raise my water bill or taxes?

The County's position is that the costs of addressing contamination should be borne by the responsible parties, not Clermont County taxpayers. Protecting the source now helps avoid expensive fixes later.