

**WEACAU-III: International Workshop on
Environmental Aspects of Coal Ash Utilization**

Tel Aviv, Israel
December 11th – 12th 2012

Opening remarks – Pollutants Team's objectives

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In this, the 3rd meeting of the workshop on the environmental aspects of the uses of coal ash, relevant information gathered through research and field application in recent years will be presented. It is expected that the deliberations that will take place in this meeting will facilitate the application of the accumulated knowledge as the foundation for effective environmental regulations that will govern the safe use of coal ash and for methodologies to enforce these regulations. It is also hoped that the presentations and discussions that will take place in this meeting will help to optimize the occupational hygiene requirements and result in recommendations for the proper use of coal ash in its various applications.

In at least two areas the acquired knowledge and experience already led to the formulation of regulations which were adopted by the Ministry of the Environment, or are at least undergoing a review by its staff: Coal ash was removed from the list of hazardous dusts and its definition was changed from crystalline silica to a mere nuisance dust; an advanced draft of the environmental requirements for the use of coal ash in construction materials, infrastructure and agriculture was prepared and is being studied by the staff of the Ministry of the Environment. This draft will be deliberated in the present meeting for the purpose of imbedding in it the experience and considerable knowledge of the participants.

The opening remarks will include a brief outline of the topics to be discussed in this meeting.