There are many uses for the fly ash generated by coal-burning power plants. But is utilizing this byproduct a wise choice? At OPPD, we believe it is, both for our customer-owners and the district's bottom line. Recently, concerns have been raised about the Coal Combustion Residuals requirements. Here, we explain that reusing fly ash is not only safe and effective under the new law, it also isn’t harmful to the environment.

When mixed with calcium hydroxide, it has many of the same properties as cement. Replacing a portion of the cement with fly ash creates a material that, when used with other aggregates and compounds, produces concrete well-suited for road, airport runway and bridge construction.

OPPD has been selling its fly ash and working with an ash marketer to find applications for the fly ash since the 1970s. The utility saved money on transportation costs for wholesale fly ash by using existing railroad lines to move the fly ash to neighboring states for use in projects such as the Denver International Airport.

OPPD data; The Virginian-Pilot, “Above ground, a golf course. Just beneath it, potential health risks” (March 30, 2008).