ASTSWMO, Providing Pathways to Our Nation's Environmental Stewardship Since 1974

September 10, 2026

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
EPA Docket Center
Office of Land and Emergency Management (OLEM) Docket
Mail Code 28221T
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington D.C. 20460

via regulations.gov

RE: Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OLEM-2022-0903

Dear Sir or Madam:

The Materials Management Subcommittee (Subcommittee) of the Association of State and Territorial Solid Waste Management Officials (ASTSWMO) appreciates the opportunity to provide comments regarding the United States Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) proposed "Alabama: Approval of State Coal Combustion Residuals Permit Program," published in the Federal Register on July 14, 2026 (hereafter referred to as the "Proposed Decision"). These comments have not been reviewed or adopted by the ASTSWMO Board of Directors.

ASTSWMO is an association representing the waste management, materials management, and remediation programs of the 50 States, five Territories, and the District of Columbia (States). Our membership includes State program experts who manage State-run solid-waste permitting programs as well as coal combustion residuals (CCR) programs. The mission of the Subcommittee is to enhance and promote the development of effective State materials management programs.

States implement 90% of the environmental programs for EPA, and in the spirit of cooperative federalism, it is essential that EPA act on State permit program applications. The Subcommittee appreciates EPA acting on Alabama's permit program application and supports EPA's proposed decision to approve Alabama's CCR permit program. The Subcommittee recognizes that this proposed decision follows EPA's prior proposed denial of Alabama's earlier CCR permit program application and appreciates the continued work by EPA and Alabama to move the State CCR permit program approval process forward.

The EPA process for approving State CCR permit programs is an issue of long-standing importance to ASTSWMO. The Association has issued formal statements on CCR permit program implementation. The Subcommittee has had ongoing conversations with EPA about the need to provide clear, consistent direction to States as to what is necessary for a complete submittal of a State CCR permit program application. In addition, the Subcommittee has commented on EPA's CCR rulemaking, guidance, and proposed permit program decisions. The Subcommittee has been collaborating with EPA to assist States in seeking permit program approval. We are encouraged to see EPA approvals of State CCR permit

programs moving forward at a steadier pace than in the past. The Subcommittee looks forward to continued partnership with EPA on CCR related issues. If you have any questions about these comments, please contact me at james.m.jennings@illinois.gov.

Sincerely,

James Jennings (IL), Chair

Materials Management Subcommittee
ASTSWMO