

## WATER

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contains chemicals like arsenic and mercury. These chemicals can be harmful in higher concentrations, Diaz said. After the coal ash spill at the Kingston Fossil Plant, the EPA sampled the water and found elevated levels of arsenic in surface water.

North Carolina ranks ninth in the country in coal ash production at more than 5.5 million tons per year, according to Earthjustice, another environmental nonprofit organization that pushes for stricter regulations on coal ash disposal.

Chemicals from industrial waste often seep into groundwater, Diaz said, but water treatment plants have tests and processes to make sure water does not get to residential homes. She said her worries lean more toward environmental destruction.

The North Carolina Depart-

ment of Environment and Natural Resources closely monitors water treatment laboratories, making sure the water consistently meets standards, according to **Brenna Cook, a laboratory supervisor at the North Fork treatment plant in Asheville.** Their technology, although not sophisticated, accurately tests for levels of many different harmful chemicals, Cook said.

"We do have to monitor our entry points – the water leaving the plants every year – for inorganic materials, and we never have a hit on any metals like arsenic," Cook said.

North Carolina has 37 coal ash holding ponds or landfills from 14 coal-fired plants. Of those holding ponds, the EPA considers 29 of them to be high hazard. High hazard means a dam failure like the one in Roane County, Tenn., in 2008 and would most likely cause death and economic and environmental damage or loss, according to the EPA. Buncombe

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**Sandra Diaz**  
*campaign coordinator for Appalachian Voices*

County's Progress Energy Lake Julian Plant operates two of those high hazard ponds.

"The pollutants coming from the smokestacks (at the Lake Julian plant) are not as high as they used to be, but matter is neither created nor destroyed so the pollution has to go somewhere, and more of the pollution is going into these ponds," Diaz said.

State regulations impact residential trash disposal more than industrial waste disposal, according to Diaz. Many of the regulations for coal combustion are outdated and do not adequately protect the environment, she said.

"Basically, the apple core

you throw in your trashcan has more regulation around it than the coal ash, which contains a host of toxic heavy metals just sitting there by the river, so that's something we would obviously like to see change," Diaz said.

Although a coal ash holding pond failure in Buncombe County could be deadly, **Gary Higgins, the director of the Buncombe County Soil and Water Conservation District,** said coal ash causes less water pollution than sediment and soil erosion.

"The pollutant we deal with mainly is sediment, which is the largest pollutant in North Carolina rivers and streams, by

volume and probably by impact as well," Higgins said. "With those soil particles you have a variety of pesticides and fertilizers that get in the stream."

Higgins, a Buncombe County native, said the state regulates industrial waste more than it does soil erosion and farmland waste. The Soil and Water Conservation District mostly deals with agricultural issues such as soil erosion and run-off from farmlands. They implement management practices to protect land and water through incentive-based programs.

With the work of Appalachian Voices and other nonprofit environmental organizations, Diaz said people will hopefully learn how to navigate the political systems despite the opposition from coal-fired plants.

"That feeling of helplessness is a pretty big motivator for people to get involved in the issues," Diaz said. "If we don't have clean air and water, then the other issues really don't matter."

## EGYPT

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seats in the parliamentary election because of lack of political organization. The Supreme Constitutional Court later dissolved the newly elected parliament after the mandatory independents switched to the Brotherhood after the election, said Traboulsi, a Lebanon native.

"The big election happened in June 2012 for the presidential elections. For the first round, there were several candidates, but it ended up with two candidates. One is Ahmed Shafik, who is secular, but he used to be a minister under Mubarak," Traboulsi said. "A lot of people, even secular youth, opposition, everyone, sided back to the Muslim Brotherhood candidate, and that's how the Muslim Brotherhood won."

The Supreme Court swore in Mohamed Morsi, the Muslim Brotherhood candidate. Following his election, Morsi took back control over the Supreme Court of the Armed Forces, which played a large role in the transitional period of the revolution after Mubarak's resignation, Traboulsi said.

## "Youth movements are important often as instigators to political change, but they have less staying power than some more established institutions."

**Linda Cornett**  
*UNCA political science chair*

"One of the players among those remnants is the Supreme Court of the Armed Forces, who are still active," Traboulsi said. "During the revolution, they were neutral. They were trying to mediate, not to attack the protestors, but at the same time, protecting the state institutions. After the revolution when they became in power, they played a role in fermenting tension between Christians and Muslims."

After the revolution, instances of police brutality continued on civilians, causing more protests, Traboulsi said.

"There are outside parties that have an interest in this. So he has to be sensitive, too, to how the international community is viewing what's going on," Cornett said. "I think his most immediate interest, though, is

getting control of the violence in the country."

Although the Muslim Brotherhood remains the most organized party in the revolution, other groups play a crucial role in the unfolding events, including the Al-Nur party and the April 6 Youth Movement, who started the revolution, Traboulsi said.

"The other very interesting groups are the Ultras of the Ahly soccer team, and the Ultras are the most feared of the opposition, because the Ultras are a group of soccer fans. They have nothing to do with politics," Traboulsi said. "When the revolution started on Jan. 25, the Ultras were one of the first to go into the streets."

On Feb. 1, 2012, at a game in Port Said between the Ahly and Masry soccer teams, the Masry

Ultras locked some of the Ahly Ultras in the stadium, and sent Masry thugs in with swords and other weapons, where almost 80 Ahly Ultras died, with no resistance from police. Twenty-two Masry Ultras received the death sentence, after which protests broke out in Port Said, Traboulsi said.

"Port Said went out of the control of the state, which led Morsi to announce a state of emergency again, after it was lifted in 2012, resulting in a complete uprising against him, because here, we're back, Morsi's playing the same game as Mubarak," said Traboulsi, who speaks English, Arabic and French and studied Persian.

Even within the past two weeks, new opposition groups continue to form. The Egyptian Black Block Anarchists are under state scrutiny.

They wear masks and neither state nor press knows their identity, much to the concern of Morsi's administration, Traboulsi said.

"There's a lot of optimism that things will be better in the end, but there's a lot of anxiety that things could get worse before they get better," Cornett said.

## TOPLESS

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said he and Moffitt diverge when it comes to the philosophical approach to governance, and this is making the Republican Party look bad, as if it is the most important item on the agenda. He does not want the party to shoot itself in the foot.

"When you pass a law to address a local issue like this statewide, that's big governance. I disagree with that. More pressure should have been put on the city and the county to do something. If you're going to be a conservative Republican, be one," Mumpower said of Moffitt.

Bothma said the mentality behind all of this is a need to control women and their bodies. She said she does not understand why Moffitt does not have something better to do with his time, like working with the economy.

"I think that this is another example of how we demonize women and their bodies and sexualize them. In most parts of the world, there isn't this kind of conservative attitude towards nudity, especially breasts," Bothma said. "They're boobs. It's not a big deal."