Toxic chemicals in groundwater pose health threats

Study shows that groundwater has been contaminated by coal ash across the U.S. Coal contains toxic chemicals, including arsenic and boron. These chemicals can cause significant damage to human health.

- **Arsenic** causes cancer, skin conditions and neurological impairments in children.

- **Boron** is associated with developmental and reproductive toxicity, including low birth weight and testicular atrophy.

- **Lithium** can damage kidneys and the neurological system. It also decreases thyroid function and causes birth defects.

- **Molybdenum** is associated with arthritis-like symptoms.

- **Cobalt** is associated with blood disease and thyroid damage.

**Source:** ENVIRONMENTAL INTEGRITY PROJECT  
**PENG CHEN/Missourian**