**Synergy between Pond Closure, Ash Beneficiation and Rare Earth Elements (REEs)**

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An overview of Rare Earth Element (REE) occurrence in coal and coal ash will be provided along with a description of strategies for concentrating these elements so critical to the renewable energy and other industries. Although physical beneficiation provides only marginal concentration of REEs, it plays a critical role in removing components detrimental to downstream REE recovery processes. Physical beneficiation meshes with excavation activities related to pond closure and can provide the opportunity to increase utilization of ash-related materials by separation into value-added products.