

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

July 28, 2011

OFFICE OF
SOLID WASTE AND
EMERGENCY RESPONSE

VIA E-MAIL

Mr. Duane Highley
Director Power Production
Associated Electric Cooperative
2814 South Golden
P.O.Box 754
Springfield, MO 65801-0754

Dear Mr. Highley,

On November 9, 2010 the United States Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA") and its engineering contractors conducted a coal combustion residual (CCR) site assessment at the Thomas Hill Energy Center facility. The purpose of this visit was to assess the structural stability of the impoundments or other similar management units that contain "wet" handled CCRs. We thank you and your staff for your cooperation during the site visit. Subsequent to the site visit, EPA sent you a copy of the draft report evaluating the structural stability of the units at the Thomas Hill Energy Center facility and requested that you submit comments on the factual accuracy of the draft report to EPA. Your comments were considered in the preparation of the final report.

The final report for the Thomas Hill Energy Center facility is enclosed. This report includes a specific condition rating for each CCR management unit and recommendations and actions that our engineering contractors believe should be undertaken to ensure the stability of the CCR impoundment(s) located at the Thomas Hill Energy Center facility. These recommendations are listed in Enclosure 2.

Since these recommendations relate to actions which could affect the structural stability of the CCR management units and, therefore, protection of human health and the environment, EPA believes their implementation should receive the highest priority. Therefore, we request that you inform us on how you intend to address each of the recommendations found in the final report. Your response should include specific plans and schedules for implementing each of the recommendations. If you will not implement a recommendation, please provide a rationale. Please provide a response to this request by August 29, 2011. Please send your response to:

Mr. Stephen Hoffman
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (5304P)
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20460

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If you are using overnight or hand delivery mail, please use the following address:

Mr. Stephen Hoffman
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Two Potomac Yard
2733 S. Crystal Drive
5th Floor, N-5838
Arlington, VA 22202-2733

You may also provide a response by e-mail to hoffman.stephen@epa.gov

You may assert a business confidentiality claim covering all or part of the information requested, in the manner described by 40 C. F. R. Part 2, Subpart B. Information covered by such a claim will be disclosed by EPA only to the extent and only by means of the procedures set forth in 40 C.F.R. Part 2, Subpart B. If no such claim accompanies the information when EPA receives it, the information may be made available to the public by EPA without further notice to you. If you wish EPA to treat any of your response as “confidential” you must so advise EPA when you submit your response.

EPA will be closely monitoring your progress in implementing the recommendations from these reports and could decide to take additional action if the circumstances warrant.

You should be aware that EPA will be posting the report for this facility on the Agency website shortly.

Given that the site visit related solely to structural stability of the management units, this report and its conclusions in no way relate to compliance with RCRA, CWA, or any other environmental law and are not intended to convey any position related to statutory or regulatory compliance.

Please be advised that providing false, fictitious, or fraudulent statements of representation may subject you to criminal penalties under 18 U.S.C. § 1001.

If you have any questions concerning this matter, please contact Mr. Hoffman in the Office of Resource Conservation and Recovery at (703) 308-8413. Thank you for your continued efforts to ensure protection of human health and the environment.

Sincerely,
/Suzanne Rudzinski/, Director
Office of Resource Conservation and Recovery

Enclosures

Thomas Hill Energy Center Recommendations (from the final assessment report)

12.1 Corrective Measures and Analyses for the Structures

Seepage and stability analyses should be performed for the dike associated with the Slag Dewatering Basin to properly assess the stability of the embankment.

12.2 Corrective Measures Required for Instrumentation and Monitoring Procedures

No corrective measures are required. We do recommend that instrumentation determined by the engineer performing the seepage and stability analyses be installed and maintained.

12.3 Corrective Measures Required for Maintenance and Surveillance Procedures

None.

12.4 Corrective Measures Required for the Methods of Operation of the Project Works

None.

12.5 Summary

The following factors were the main considerations in determining the final rating of the impoundments at Thomas Hill Energy Center.

- The dikes at each of the impoundments are low-hazard structures based on federal and state classifications.
- The impoundments were generally observed to be in good condition in the field assessment.
- Hydrologic analyses indicate the dikes at each pond can store the regulatory design flood without overtopping.
- Stability and seismic analyses indicate that the dikes for Ash Pond – Cell No. 2 appear to be adequately constructed and will perform as intended.
- Seepage and stability analyses of the dike associated with the Slag Dewatering Basin could not be located and should be performed.
- Maintenance, surveillance and operational procedures are considered adequate.
- An operation plan should be developed and maintained.