Allegheny Energy

Daniel C. McIntire
Vice President, Generation Operations

800 Cabin Hill Drive
Greensburg, PA 15601

CERTIFIED MAIL

March 24, 2009

Mr. Richard Kinch
US Environmental Protection Agency
Two Potomac Yard
2733 S. Crystal Yard
5th Floor: N-56
Arlington, VA 22202 2733

Dear Mr. Kinch:

PLEASANTS POWER STATION
McELROY'S RUN EMBANKMENT AND IMPOUNDMENT
PLEASANTS COUNTY, WV
ALLEGHENY ENERGY SUPPLY COMPANY, LLC
CERCLA 104(e) INFORMATION REQUEST LETTER
COAL COMBUSTION BYPRODUCT MANAGEMENT UNITS

Allegheny Energy Supply Company, LLC (AE Supply), as part owner and operator of the Pleasants Power Station, represented by its agent, Allegheny Energy Service Corporation, is responding to your information request letters relating to surface impoundments or similar diked material or bermed management unit(s) or management units designated as landfills which receive liquid-borne material from a surface impoundment used for the storage or disposal of residuals or by-products from the combustion of coal, including , but not limited to, fly ash, bottom ash, boiler slag, or flue gas emission control residuals.

It is important to note Pleasants Power Station was not on the facility list that was released by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). However, in a letter dated March 9, 2009, sent to our Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Paul Evanson, EPA requested that he:

> "identify and furnish to EPA a list of any additional facilities in your corporation to whom we have not sent an information request and which have surface impoundments or similar diked material or bermed management unit(s) or management units designated as landfills which receive liquid-borne material from a surface impoundment used for the storage or disposal of residuals or by-products from the combustion of coal, including , but not limited to, fly ash, bottom ash, boiler slag, or flue gas emission control residuals".

A copy of said letter is attached as Attachment 1 under the "Introduction" tab of the binder.

In response your request, the McElroy's Run facility at the Pleasants Power Station meets one or more of the criteria set forth above. Located in Willow Island, West Virginia, Pleasants Power Station personnel maintain and operate the McElroy's Run Embankment and Impoundment in Pleasants County, West Virginia.

Accordingly, Allegheny Energy Service Corporation hereby responds to all questions from your Enclosure page (contained in the request letter to Mr. Evanson). Please see the response information contained in tabs 1 through 10 of the binder.

Should you have any questions or require any additional information, please contact Gary Haag, P.E. at (724) 830-5459.

Allegheny Energy

I certify that the information contained in this response to EPA's request for information and the accompanying documents is true, accurate, and complete. As to the identified portions of this response for which I cannot personally verify their accuracy, I certify under penalty of law that this response and all attachments were prepared in accordance with a system designed to assure that qualified personnel properly gather and evaluate the information submitted. Based on my inquiry of the person or persons who manage the system, those persons directly responsible for gathering the information, the information submitted is, to the best of my knowledge, true accurate, and complete. I am aware that there are significant penalties for submitting false information, including the possibility of fines and imprisonment for knowing violations.

Sincerely,

Daniel C. McIntire

Daniel C. McIntire
Vice President,
Generation Operations

Attachments

c: Jim Roewer, USWAG Executive Director

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Each of the following EPA questions is responded to under the similar tab number

1. Relative to the National Inventory of Dams criteria for High, Significant, Low, or Less-than-Low, please provide the potential hazard rating for each management unit and indicate who established the rating, and what federal or state agency regulates the unit(s). If the unit(s) does not have a rating, please note that fact.

2. What year was each management unit commissioned and expanded?

3. What materials are temporarily or permanently contained in the unit? Use the following categories to respond to this question: (1) fly ash (2) bottom ash; (3) boiler slag; (4) flue gas emission control residuals; (5) other. If the management unit contains more than one type of material, please identify all that apply. Also, if you identify "other," please specify the other types of materials that are temporarily or permanently contained in the unit(s).

4. Was the management unit(s) designed by a Professional Engineer? Is or was the construction of the waste management unit(s) under the supervision of a Professional Engineer? Is inspection and monitoring of the safety of the waste management unit(s) under the supervision of a Professional Engineer?

5. When did the company last assess or evaluate the safety (i.e., structural integrity) of the management unit(s)? Briefly describe the credentials of those conducting the structural integrity assessments/evaluations. Identify actions taken or planned by facility personnel as a result of these assessments or evaluations. If corrective actions were taken, briefly describe the credentials of those performing the corrective actions, whether they were company employees or contractors. If the company plans an assessment or evaluation in the future, when is it expected to occur?

6. When did a State or Federal regulatory official last inspect or evaluate the safety (structural integrity) of the management unit(s)? If you are aware of a planned state or federal inspection or evaluation in the future, when is it expected to occur? Please identify the Federal or State regulatory agency or department which conducted or is planning the inspection or evaluation. Please provide a copy of the most recent official inspection report or evaluation.

7. Have assessments or evaluations, or inspections conducted by State or Federal regulatory officials conducted within the past year uncovered a safety issue(s) with the management unit(s), and, if so, describe the actions that have been or are being taken to deal with the issue or issues. Please provide any documentation that you have for these actions.

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Each of the following EPA questions is responded to under the similar tab number

8. What is the surface area (acres) and total storage capacity of each of the management units? What is the volume of the material currently stored in each of the management unit(s)? Please provide the date that the volume measurement was taken.

9. Please provide a brief history of known spills or unpermitted releases from the unit within the last then years, whether or not these were reported to State or federal regulatory agencies. For purposes of this question, please include only releases to surface water or the land (do not include releases to groundwater).

10. Please identify all current legal owner(s) and operator(s) at the facility.

1. *Relative to the National Inventory of Dams criteria for High, Significant, Low, or Less-than-Low, please provide the potential hazard rating for each management unit and indicate who established the rating, and what federal or state agency regulates the unit(s). If the unit(s) does not have a rating, please note that fact.*

RESPONSE 1:

The West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection determines the hazard potential classification as established in the Dam Safety Regulation (47CSR34). Pleasants Power Station's McElroy's Run Embankment and Impoundment has a Class 1 (High) potential classification[1].

- [1]**Classification of Dams.** (47CSR34-3.5.b.1.)
  - Class 1 (High Hazard) Dams - Class 1 dams are those dams located where failure may cause loss of human life or major damage to dwellings, commercial or industrial buildings, main railroads, important public utilities, or where a high risk highway may be affected or damaged. This classification must be used if failure may result in the loss of human life.

2. *What year was each management unit commissioned and expanded?*

RESPONSE 2:

The West Virginia Department of Natural Resources issued a Certificate of Approval for McElroy's Run Embankment and Impoundment in 1978.

3. *What materials are temporarily or permanently contained in the unit? Use the following categories to respond to this question: (1) fly ash (2) bottom ash; (3) boiler slag; (4) flue gas emission control residuals; (5) other. If the management unit contains more than one type of material, please identify all that apply. Also, if you identify "other," please specify the other types of materials that are temporarily or permanently contained in the unit(s).*

RESPONSE 3:

The materials disposed in the impoundment consist of:

(1) Fly ash,

(2) Bottom ash,

(4) FGD sludge and

(5) Other – Synthetic gypsum and waste materials generated as a result of housekeeping activities or repairs (i.e.: lime, coal, desiccant, resins, filter material, etc.).

The majority of the material is FGD sludge. These materials are either pumped or delivered by truck to the impoundment for permanent disposal.

4. *Was the management unit(s) designed by a Professional Engineer? Is or was the construction of the waste management unit(s) under the supervision of a Professional Engineer? Is inspection and monitoring of the safety of the waste management unit(s) under the supervision of a Professional Engineer?*

RESPONSE #4:

Pleasants Power Station's McElroy's Run Embankment and Impoundment was originally designed by D'Appolonia Consulting Engineers. The application was signed by Design Engineer, James Poellot, R.P.E No. 6766 in 1977. From interviews with consultants from GAI Consultants, Inc. (GAI), D'Appolonia Consulting Engineers were involved in the construction of the McElroy's Run Embankment and Impoundment until approximately 1981. At that time, GAI became the supervising construction engineers. Mr. Thomas Donovan, P.E. was then the supervising engineer until completion.

McElroy's Run Embankment and Impoundment is currently inspected on an annual basis. The impoundment was last inspected on March 10, 2009 by GAI, Allegheny Energy personnel as well a representative from West Virginia Dam Safety. The inspection report performed by GAI is signed by a Registered Professional Engineer (P.E) with certification in West Virginia. During many of the inspections, a West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection, Dam Safety inspector also does an inspection and will issue an independent report. The West Virginia Dam Safety inspector is also a P.E. in West Virginia.

5. *When did the company last assess or evaluate the safety (i.e., structural integrity) of the management unit(s)? Briefly describe the credentials of those conducting the structural integrity assessments/evaluations. Identify actions taken or planned by facility personnel as a result of these assessments or evaluations. If corrective actions were taken, briefly describe the credentials of those performing the corrective actions, whether they were company employees or contractors. If the company plans an assessment or evaluation in the future, when is it expected to occur?*

REPONSE # 5:

Pleasants Power Station's McElroy's Run Embankment and Impoundment held its last annual inspection on March 10, 2009. Attendees included representatives from Allegheny Energy Supply Company, LLC (AE Supply) (Gary Haag, P.E., Dennis Jones, Dan Dennis and Charlton Roberts), Brian Long and Paul Frantz (WVDEP-Dam Safety) and Barry Newman and Tom Gower (GAI Consultants Inc., (GAI).

Mr. Long, Mr. Frantz and Mr. Newman are Professional Engineers (P.E.) in West Virginia. Mr. Gower is a Professional Geologist.

GAI is AE Supply's consultant that has been involved in the annual inspections for many years at McElroy's Run. Based on the inspection and review of the instrumentation data (station personnel take piezometer readings weekly), GAI concluded that the embankment is functioning as designed. No conditions were observed by GAI which indicate the facility will not operate properly during normal or projected reservoir water level conditions. The report was signed and sealed by F. Barry Newman, P.E. Vice President and Geotechnical/Structures Group Manager, GAI. Please see the attached 2009 Inspection Report marked as Attachment 1.

AE Supply also requested GAI to respond to a West Virginia DEP Dam Safety Order of Compliance to determine the current minimum upstream and downstream embankment slope factors of safety for existing conditions and loading conditions and earthquake loading conditions. The determination utilized current embankment slopes, reservoir elevations, phreatic surface elevations, and seepage zones observed by inspection. The determination results in accordance with West Virginia Dam Safety Rule Provisions (47CSR34-7.4.b.1.D.4) demonstrating adequate factors of safety. Based upon the review of current conditions versus stability analyses, GAI has concluded that the current condition at the McElroy's Run Embankment and fly ash disposal site satisfies the Factor of Safety requirements of the Order of Compliance. The report was signed and sealed by F. Barry Newman, P.E. Vice President and Geotechnical/Structures Group Manager, GAI. Please see the attached 2009 Stability Analyses Report marked as Attachment 2.

6. *When did a State or Federal regulatory official last inspect or evaluate the safety (structural integrity) of the management unit(s)? If you are aware of a planned state or federal inspection or evaluation in the future, when is it expected to occur? Please identify the Federal or State regulatory agency or department which conducted or is planning the inspection or evaluation. Please provide a copy of the most recent official inspection report or evaluation.*

REPONSE # 6:

Pleasants Power Station's McElroy's Run Embankment and Impoundment held its last annual inspection on March 10, 2009. Attendees included Brian Long, P.E and Paul Frantz, P.E. (WVDEP-Dam Safety), Barry Newman and Tom Gower (GAI Consultants Inc., (GAI) and Gary Haag, P.E., Dennis Jones, Dan Dennis and Charlton Roberts (representing AE Supply).

As of March 23, 2009 a written report has not been issued by WVDEP- Dam Safety. We have included the WVDEP – Dam Safety written inspection report from April 8, 2008 for your review. Please see the attached 2008 Inspection Report marked as Attachment 1.

7. *Have assessments or evaluations, or inspections conducted by State or Federal regulatory officials conducted within the past year uncovered a safety issue(s) with the management unit(s), and, if so, describe the actions that have been or are being taken to deal with the issue or issues. Please provide any documentation that you have for these actions.*

REPONSE # 7:

As of March 23, 2009 a written report has not been issued by WVDEP- Dam Safety which was conducted on March 10, 2009. We are anticipating no major recommendations will be made by WVDEP Dam Safety and will be similar to the comments from our consultant's (GAI) report. These minor issues would be the filling of approximately 12 active or abandoned groundhog holes. A few expansion joints on the emergency spillway had loose caulking and cleaning and resealing the joints should be done. A few small diameter trees were observed on the slope toward the west side of the embankment and should be cut.

AE Supply maintenance personnel were present during the inspection and animal burrows were flagged for repair or monitoring. AE Supply will fill the groundhog holes, cut the small trees, and clean and repair the expansion joints.

8. *What is the surface area (acres) and total storage capacity of each of the management units? What is the volume of the material currently stored in each of the management unit(s)? Please provide the date that the volume measurement was taken.*

REPONSE # 8:

The McElroy's Run Impoundment is approximately 219 acres with a design capacity of 28.31 million Cubic Yards (CY). As of 6/2004 (when the last fathometer survey was done) the volume of material contained within the impoundment was 23.98 million CY. A new fathometer survey is scheduled for later in 2009.

The maximum height of the dam is approximately 233'.

9. *Please provide a brief history of known spills or unpermitted releases from the unit within the last ten years, whether or not these were reported to State or federal regulatory agencies. For purposes of this question, please include only releases to surface water or the land (do not include releases to groundwater).*

REPONSE # 9:

Review of the previous ten years records for McElroy' Run Impoundment does not indicate there were any known spills or unpermitted releases from the unit.

10. Please identify all current legal owner(s) and operator(s) at the facility.

REPONSE # 10:

Pleasants Power Station legal owners are:

- Allegheny Energy Supply Company, LLC 92.31%
- Monongahela Power Company 7.69%

The operator of Pleasants Power Station is Allegheny Energy Supply Company, LLC.