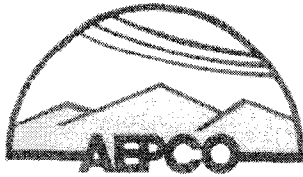


US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT



## Arizona Electric Power Cooperative, Inc.

P.O. Box 670 • Benson, Arizona 85602-0670 • Phone 520-586-3631

Via Federal Express

March 26, 2009

Mr. Richard Kinch  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Two Potomac Yard  
2733 S. Crystal Dr.  
5<sup>th</sup> Floor; N05783  
Arlington, VA 22202-2733

**RE: RESPONSE AND CERTIFICATION OF ARIZONA ELECTRIC POWER COOPERATIVE, INC. (AEPCO) TO REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION UNDER SECTION 104(E) OF THE COMPREHENSIVE ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSE, COMPENSATION, AND LIABILITY ACT, 42 U.S.C. 9604(E)**

Dear Mr. Kinch:

This is in response to copies of letters from Barry N. Breen, Acting Assistant administrator, issued to the Chief Executive Officer of AEPCO on March 9, 2009, and to the Plant Manager of AEPCO's Apache Station on March 9, 2009. Please be advised that Apache Station, located in Cochise, Arizona, is AEPCO's only electric generating facility, and therefore, except for the subject facilities at Apache Station, AEPCO does not own or operate any other facilities "relating to the surface impoundments or similar diked or bermed management units or management units designated as landfill which receive liquid-borne material from 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."

Please therefore find enclosed AEPCO's Responses to each request for information, including documentation pertaining to the combustion waste disposal facility, low volume wastewater pond, cooling tower blowdown pond and coal pile retention basin at Apache Station. Please also find two Certifications, one executed by Donald W. Kimball, AEPCO's Executive Vice President and Chief Executive Officer, and one executed by Michael D. Nelson, AEPCO's Manager of Power Production. This Response and Certifications are made on behalf of AEPCO and its Apache Station.



Mr. Richard Kinch  
March 26, 2009  
Page 2

If you require any additional information please feel free to contact me at (520) 586-5000.

Sincerely,



Michelle Freeark  
Manager of Environmental Services

Enc.

cc: J. Andrew  
G. Grim  
D. Kimball  
P. Ledger  
M. Nelson

## ARIZONA ELECTRIC POWER COOPERATIVE, INC.

## CERTIFICATE

I certify that the information contained in this Response to the United States Environmental Protection Agency'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.



Michael D. Nelson  
Manager of Power Production

ARIZONA ELECTRIC POWER COOPERATIVE, INC.

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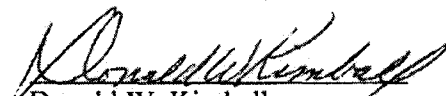


Michael D. Nelson  
Manager of Power Production

## ARIZONA ELECTRIC POWER COOPERATIVE, INC.

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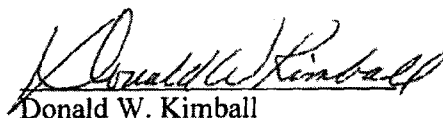


Donald W. Kimball  
Executive Vice President and  
Chief Executive Officer

## ARIZONA ELECTRIC POWER COOPERATIVE, INC.

## CERTIFICATE

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Donald W. Kimball  
Executive Vice President and  
Chief Executive Officer



## Response to EPA Section 104 Request

1. The Apache Station Combustion Waste Disposal Facility (Facility) has been rated as a High Hazard. The Facility was rated by and is regulated by the Arizona Department of Water Resources (ADWR), Dam Safety and Flood Mitigation Division. The rating basis was modified in 2004 from Significant to High Hazard due to the potential for loss of human life (two homes are located in the modeled inundation area downstream of the Facility).
2. The Facility entered operation in 1995. No expansions have been made since that date.
3. The Facility contains fly ash, bottom ash, and flue gas emission control residuals.
4. The Facility was designed and stamped by a Burns & McDonnell Registered Professional Civil Engineer. The Facility was constructed under the supervision of a Registered Professional Engineer. The Facility safety inspection and monitoring is under the supervision of a Registered Professional Engineer.
5. The last Facility structural integrity survey was completed in December 2008. The survey was completed by a Registered Land Surveyor (RLS), and the data analysis was completed by a Registered Professional Civil Engineer (RPCE). Actions to be taken, as a result of the last survey report recommendations, include: observation and maintenance of erosion prevention devices after large rainfall events, performed by Facility Equipment Operators, and; continued annual monitoring of the Facility survey monuments as performed by the RLS and RPCE. The next survey will occur in late 2009.
6. A representative of ADWR last inspected the Facility in December 2008. ADWR conducts an annual inspection each December. A copy of the last inspection report is attached.
7. No safety issues have been uncovered in the last year during inspections by ADWR.
8. The Facility has a total of 285 acres of subsurface area. The Facility has a total of seven separate lined ponds. The last stored solids volume measurements were taken in February 2009. The maximum height of the Facility is thirty-one (31) feet. The total storage capacity and volume of materials in each pond is as shown below:

<u>Description</u>	<u>Total Volume</u>	<u>Stored Solids Volume</u>
• Ash Pond 1	717 acre-feet	250 acre-feet
• Ash Pond 2	720 acre-feet	313 acre-feet
• Ash Pond 3	720 acre-feet	0 acre-feet
• Ash Pond 4	693 acre-feet	0 acre-feet
• Evaporation 1	823 acre-feet	0 acre-feet
• Scrubber Pond 1	314 acre-feet	250 acre-feet
• Scrubber Pond 2	446 acre-feet	0 acre-feet

9. No known spills or unpermitted releases have occurred within the last ten years from the Facility.
10. The Facility is currently owned and operated by Arizona Electric Power Cooperative, Inc.



## Low Volume Wastewater Pond

Apache Station has additional facilities on-site that are designed to receive/hold liquid wastes that receive fly ash, bottom ash, etc. It is our belief that these facilities do not meet the definition of an impoundment but the information has been included in the request.

1. The Low Volume Wastewater (LVWW) Pond does not have a rating. The height and storage capacity is below the minimum requirements for regulation by ADWR. No homes are located downstream of this pond.
2. The LVWW Pond entered service in 2005. No expansions have been made since that date.
3. The LVWW Pond contains small quantities of fly ash, bottom ash, limestone, and flue gas emission control residuals.
4. The LVWW Pond was designed and stamped by a CH2M Hill Registered Professional Civil Engineer. It was constructed under the supervision of a registered Professional Engineer. Inspection and monitoring is under the supervision of a Registered Professional Engineer.
5. No structural integrity surveys have been completed on this pond. No future structural integrity surveys are planned.
6. No state or local governmental representatives have inspected this pond. No inspection reports are available
7. N/A.
8. The LVWW Pond is a lined pond accepting low flows of process water and precipitation runoff from the Power Plant. The pond surface area is 20 acres, with a dike height less than six (6) feet above grade. The storage capacity of the pond is 30 acre-feet. It is estimated there is less than 0.3 acre-feet, or 0.001 percent, material storage in this pond.
9. There have been no known spills, or unpermitted releases, from this pond since it was placed in service.
10. The LVWW Pond is currently owned and operated by Arizona Electric Power Cooperative, Inc.

## Cooling Tower Blowdown Pond

Apache Station has additional facilities on-site that are designed to receive/hold liquid wastes that receive fly ash, bottom ash, etc. It is our belief that these facilities do not meet the definition of an impoundment but the information has been included in the request.

1. The Cooling Tower Blowdown (CTB) Pond does not have a rating. The height and storage capacity is below the minimum requirements for regulation by ADWR. No homes are located downstream of this pond.
2. The CTB Pond entered operation in 1978. No expansions have been made since that date.
3. The CTB Pond contains small quantities of fly ash.
4. The CTB Pond was designed and stamped by a Burns & McDonnell Registered Professional Civil Engineer. It was constructed under the supervision of a registered Professional Engineer. Inspection and monitoring is under the supervision of a Registered Professional Engineer.
5. No structural integrity surveys have been completed on this pond. No future structural integrity surveys are planned.
6. No state or local governmental representatives have inspected this pond. No inspection reports are available
7. N/A.
8. The CTB Pond is a bermed pond 10 feet above grade that is 260 feet by 125 feet with a capacity of 2.22 million gallons of water. It is estimated there is less than 30,000 cubic feet of fly ash in this pond.
9. This pond has an overflow flume which diverts overflow water to the Low Volume Wastewater Pond.
10. The CTB Pond is currently owned and operated by Arizona Electric Power Cooperative, Inc.

## Coal Pile Retention Basin

Apache Station has additional facilities on-site that are designed to receive/hold liquid wastes that receive fly ash, bottom ash, etc. It is our belief that these facilities do not meet the definition of an impoundment but the information has been included in the request.

1. The Coal Pile Retention (CPR) Basin does not have a rating. The Basin is located below grade. The height and storage capacity is below the minimum requirements for regulation by ADWR. No homes are located downstream of this pond.
2. The CPR Basin entered operation in 1978. No expansions have been made since that date.
3. The CPR Basin contains minimal quantities of coal.
4. The CPR Basin was designed and stamped by a Burns & McDonnell Registered Professional Civil Engineer. It was constructed under the supervision of a registered Professional Engineer. No inspection or monitoring of this basin is completed.
5. No structural integrity surveys have been completed on this basin. No future structural integrity surveys are planned.
6. No state or local governmental representatives have inspected this basin. No inspection reports are available
7. N/A.
8. The CPR Basin is below grade and triangular shaped with dimensions of 515, 255 and 390 feet. The basin is three (3) feet deep. The surface area is 46,856 square feet with a capacity of 1.12 million gallons. It is estimated there is less than 15,000 cubic feet of coal ash in this pond.
9. There have been no known spills, or unpermitted releases, from this basin, as it is located below grade.
10. The CPR Basin is currently owned and operated by Arizona Electric Power Cooperative, Inc.