

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

**BASIN ELECTRIC
POWER COOPERATIVE**

1717 EAST INTERSTATE AVENUE
BISMARCK, NORTH DAKOTA 58503-0564
PHONE: 701-223-0441
FAX: 701-557-5336



March 24, 2009

OVERNIGHT MAIL

Mr. Richard Kinch
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Two Potomac Yard
2733 S. Crystal Dr.
5th Floor; N-5783
Arlington, VA 22202-2733

Re: Request 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 letter is in response to the letter dated March 9, 2009 from Barry N. Breen, Acting Assistant Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to the Chief Executive Officer of Basin Electric Power Cooperative (Basin Electric), Bismarck, North Dakota. The March 9, 2009 EPA letter was received by Basin Electric on March 13, 2009.

Basin Electric is a regional generation and transmission rural electric power cooperative based in Bismarck, North Dakota. The cooperative provides wholesale power requirements to 126 rural electric distribution cooperatives throughout a nine state region. These rural electric cooperative member systems in turn serve approximately 2.6 million consumers.

Letters from EPA were also received by the Basin Electric Plant Managers of the Leland Olds Station, located in Mercer County, North Dakota and the Laramie River Station located in Platte County, Wyoming. Responses to the Leland Olds Station and Laramie River Station letters have been sent to you separately.

The March 9, 2009 letter to Basin Electric's Chief Executive Officer, stated as follows:

"In addition, pursuant to Section 104(e) of CERCLA, we request that you 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 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. If you have no additional facilities with such units, please respond by indicating that fact."

In addition to the coal based stations identified previously, Basin Electric Power Cooperative also owns and operates the Antelope Valley Station located in Mercer County, North Dakota.

Through its internal assessment, Basin Electric Power Cooperative has identified one management unit at the Antelope Valley Station that may potentially fit the criteria described. This management unit is known as the Spray Drier Ash Water Make-up Pond (SDA) which provides makeup water for the ash water system, the SO₂ removal system and the coal-handling dust suppression systems. The pond covers three acres and has a nominal capacity of 28 acre feet. It is designed to a maximum depth of 11 feet. The major waste sources to the pond are the plant's low quality sumps, neutralizing sumps and cooling water blowdown. In addition, the coal-handling area sumps and the SO₂ absorber and lime-receiving building sumps discharge to the pond intermittently. The pond was rebuilt in 1995 to replace the existing liner system with a double layer high density polyethylene liner design. Any leakage is collected and pumped back into the pond.

Also associated with the SDA pond is the temporary pond or decant pond. This pond is used when the SDA pond is periodically dredged. This dredging operation removes the solids from the SDA pond and hydraulically transports the material to the decant pond. The decant pond is an above grade pond covering approximately 3.4 acres with a storage volume of 30,000 yards. The pond has been constructed with a clay liner on the base and interior sidewalls. Perforated pipe has been placed on the floor within a filter layer of bottom ash. The base of the pond is sloped to a low collection point where the perforated drain pipes are connected to a sump manhole. This pond is put into service every 5-10 years.

It is unclear to Basin Electric whether this management unit meets the above criteria; however, it is being reported to ensure full disclosure.

If additional information is required, please let us know.

Sincerely,



Ronald R. Harper
CEO & General Manager

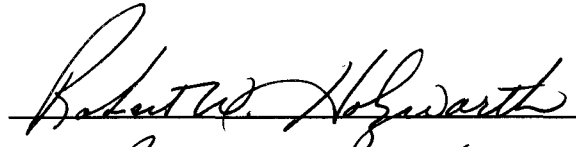
rrh/dfi/ds

CERTIFICATION

By

Authorized Representative

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.



Name: ROBERT W. HOLZWARTH
Title: V. P. PLANT OPERATIONS