

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

City of Independence

POWER & LIGHT DEPARTMENT

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March 20, 2009

Mr. Richard Kinch
US Environmental Protection Agency (5306P)
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20460

RE: Response to CERCLA Section 104 (e) Request for Information Letter

Dear Mr. Kinch,

There are three management units at the Blue Valley Power Station that accept / have accepted coal combustion residuals, i.e., North Fly Ash Pond, South Fly Ash Pond and the Bottom Ash Pond. The State of Missouri under 10 CSR 20-8.200 regulates these management units as wastewater treatment ponds, not as permitted landfills or surface impoundments. Independence Power and Light provides the attached responses to EPA's Request for Information received March 13, 2009.

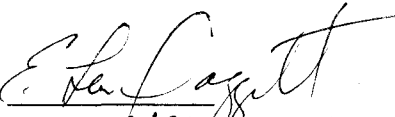
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "E. Leon Daggett". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "E." and last name "Daggett" clearly visible.

E. Leon Daggett
Director
Independence Power & Light

Attachments

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.

Signature: 

Name: E. LEON DAGGETT

Title: DIRECTOR

This request has been reviewed and approved by the Office of Management and Budget pursuant to the Paperwork Reduction Act, 44 U.S.C., 3501-3520.

Please send your reply to:

Mr. Richard Kinch
US Environmental Protection Agency (5306P)
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20460

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

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

EPA expects the owners and operators of these units to exercise the utmost care and diligence in examining whether there are any potential concerns at the units and to take appropriate actions to address them. We ask that this effort be a priority at the highest levels of your organization to ensure the protection of public health, safety, and the environment.

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, what the basis of the rating is, and what federal or state agency regulates the unit(s). If the unit(s) does not have a rating, please note that fact.

There are three bermed management units at the Blue Valley Generating Station that receive liquid-borne residuals from the combustion of coal referred to as the North Fly Ash Pond, South Fly Ash Pond and Bottom Ash Pond. These ponds do not have a National Inventory of Dams rating. It is noteworthy however, that the area downgradient of the ponds consists solely of unoccupied agricultural land, and the closest surface water body, the Little Blue River, is approximately 1.5 miles away. Hydraulic overflow from the ponds discharges to the Little Blue Valley Sewer District Wastewater Treatment Facility through permitted outfall 002.

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

Bottom Ash Pond – 1978; South Fly Ash Pond – 1978; North Fly Ash Pond – 1989.

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).

Bottom Ash Pond – bottom ash and other (i.e., clarifier blowdown, cooling tower blowdown, demineralizer waste, and plant drains); South Fly Ash Pond – fly ash; North Fly Ash Pond – fly ash.

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?

Design: Bottom Ash Pond – Burns and McDonnell MO PE seal; South Fly Ash Pond – Burns and McDonnell MO PE seal; North Fly Ash Pond – Sanley Consultants MO PE seal.

Construction: unknown

Inspection and Monitoring: unknown

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?

A Geological Evaluation was performed on May 22, 1988 by the Missouri Department of Natural Resources Division of Geology and Land Survey and the collapse potential of the ponds was rated as None (copy attached). The credentials of the inspector are not listed and are not known.

6. When did a State or a 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.

05/22/1988, see answer to question 5. Not aware of any planned federal or state inspections.

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.

No inspections within the last year.

8. What is the surface area (acres) and total storage capacity of each of the management units? What is the volume of materials currently stored in each of the management unit(s)? Please provide the date that the volume measurement(s) was taken. Please provide the maximum height of the management unit(s). The basis for determining maximum height is explained later in this Enclosure.

Surface Area

Bottom Ash Pond = 9.26 acres

North Pond = 16.77 acres

South Pond = 15.12 acres

Total Storage Capacity

Bottom Ash Pond = 214,653 cubic yards (based on average depth 17 foot depth)

North Pond = 406,638 cubic yards (based on average depth of 15 feet)

South Pond = 436,637 cubic yards (based on average depth 15 foot depth)

Volume of Materials Stored in 2009

Bottom Ash Pond = approximated at 40% capacity (~86,000 cy)

North Pond = approximated at 87% capacity (~355,800 cy)

South Pond = approximated at 95% capacity (~414,800 cy)

Maximum Height

North Pond = 22 feet

South Pond = 19 feet

Bottom Ash Pond = 13 feet

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 to the land (do not include releases to groundwater).

There have not been any known spills or unpermitted releases from the units.

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

City of Independence, Independence, Missouri and Independence Power & Light.