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

March 13, 2013

OFFICE OF
SOLID WASTE AND
EMERGENCY RESPONSE

VIA E-MAIL

Mr. Leonard Hopkins, Environmental and Fuels Manager
Southern Illinois Power Cooperative
1153 Lake of Egypt Road
Marion, Illinois 62959

Re: Request for Action Plan regarding Southern Illinois Power Co-op's – Marion Power Station

Dear Mr. Hopkins,

On May 25, 2011 the United States Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA") and its engineering contractors conducted a coal combustion residual (CCR) site assessment at the Southern Illinois Power Co-op's – Marion Power Station 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 Southern Illinois Power Co-op's – Marion Power Station 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 Southern Illinois Power Co-op's – Marion Power Station facility can be accessed at the secured link below. The secured link will expire in 60 days.

Here is the link: http://www.yousendit.com/download/UVJqV281Y3kzeUswYjhUQw

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 Southern Illinois Power Co-op's – Marion Power Station facility. These recommendations are listed in Enclosure 1.

Since these recommendations relate to actions which could affect the structural stability of the CCR management unit(s) 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 **April 15, 2013**. Please send your response to:

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

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, dufficy.craig@epa.gov, kelly.patrickm@epa.gov and englander.jana@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

Enclosure

Enclosure 1

Southern Illinois Power Co-op's – Marion Power Station Recommendations (from the final assessment report)

CONCLUSIONS

Safety of the Impoundments including Maintenance and Methods of Operation

We understand that the impoundments have a history of safe performance. The future performance of these impoundments will likely be acceptable provided that the substantial amount of fill that was previously placed on the downstream (north) side of the impoundments is allowed to remain in place to continue acting as a stability berm.

Changes in Design or Operation of the Impoundments following Initial Construction

Much of the site on the downstream (north) side of the impoundments has been filled (presumably with coal combustion wastes and/or soil).

Structural Stability of the Impoundments

The structural stability of the impoundments was not formally evaluated. Since much of the site on the downstream (north) side of the impoundments has been filled (presumably with coal combustion wastes and/or soil), structural stability of the impoundments appears to be adequate based on engineering judgment. However, as no geotechnical computations were made available for review, the stability of the embankment(s) could not be independently verified.

Adequacy of Program for Monitoring Performance of the Impoundments

The present monitoring program primarily involves daily visual assessments by plant personnel on an informal basis. These visual assessments seem to be adequate to address issues such as surface erosion and general condition of the impoundments.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the following action be taken at the Marion Power Generating Station.

6.1 Priority 1 Recommendations

1. Perform repairs to the eroded soil and riprap under the catwalk foundation at the Little Saline Creek outfall by 8/31/2013 (see Photo 24).
2. Perform a stability analysis of the impoundment embankments by 08/31/2013, including static and seismic loading conditions, use of representative soil characteristics obtained by soil sampling, and a liquefaction potential analysis if a qualitative analysis of representative soil sampling warrants such potential analysis.
3. Complete a hydrologic and hydraulic analysis for the site, including an overtopping analysis, by 08/31/2013.

6.2 Priority 2 Recommendations

1. Develop an Operation and Maintenance (O&M) manual for the impoundments by 8/31/2013. The O&M Manual should include procedures needed for operation and maintenance of the impoundments during typical operating conditions.