

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT



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

June 27, 2011

OFFICE OF
SOLID WASTE AND
EMERGENCY RESPONSE

VIA E-MAIL AND FEDERAL EXPRESS

Mr. Ed M. Sullivan, Consulting Engineer
Duke Energy Corporation
526 South Church Street
Charlotte, North Carolina 28202

Dear Mr. Sullivan,

On August 5, 2010 the United States Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA") and its engineering contractors conducted a coal combustion residual (CCR) site assessment at the East Bend 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 East Bend 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 East Bend facility is enclosed. 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 East Bend facility. These recommendations are listed in Enclosure 2.

Since these recommendations relate to actions which could affect the structural stability of the CCR management units 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 explain why. Please provide a response to this request by July 27, 2011. Please send your response to:

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

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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

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

Enclosures

Enclosure 2
East Bend Recommendations

1.2 RECOMMENDATIONS

1.2.1 Recommendations Regarding the Structural Stability

Although observations made during the site visit do not indicate signs of overstress, significant settlement, shear failure, or other signs of instability, the structural stability cannot be evaluated without reviewing the results of engineering analyses of the slope stability factors of safety under various load conditions. It is recommended that if the original design analyses cannot be located, a new geotechnical engineering evaluation be conducted. The new geotechnical engineering evaluation should be based on current standards, including seismic loading conditions.

1.2.2 Recommendations Regarding the Supporting Technical Documentation

Continued efforts to locate the original slope stability design documentation are recommended. If the original documentation cannot be located within a reasonable period of time, a geotechnical engineering evaluation is recommended (see Section 1.2.1 above).

1.2.3 Recommendations Regarding the Maintenance and Methods of Operation

Although the maintenance program appears to be adequate, several recommendations have been made to improve maintenance and ensure trouble-free operation:

- Add rip rap armoring to toe of embankment up-gradient slope in areas susceptible to erosion caused by wave action
- Grade depressed traffic tracks along the crest to prevent water ponding and reduce erosion rills
- Repair erosion rills on both the up-gradient and down-gradient Slopes
- Increase frequency of mowing dike embankments to improve effectiveness of daily observations and monthly inspections.