

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT



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

July 28, 2011

OFFICE OF  
SOLID WASTE AND  
EMERGENCY RESPONSE

VIA E-MAIL

Mr. John Finlinson  
President & Chief Operations Officer  
Intermountain Power Project  
City of Los Angeles  
111 North Hope Street  
Los Angeles, Ca 90012-2607

Dear Mr. Finlinson,

On October 26, 2010 the United States Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA") and its engineering contractors conducted a coal combustion residual (CCR) site assessment at the Intermountain Power Project 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 Intermountain Power Project 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 Intermountain Power Project 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 Intermountain Power Project 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 provide a rationale. Please provide a response to this request by August 29, 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  
5<sup>th</sup> Floor, N-5838  
Arlington, VA 22202-2733

You may also provide a response by e-mail to [hoffman.stephen@epa.gov](mailto: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

**Intermountain Power Project Recommendations (from the final assessment report)**

**12.1 Corrective Measures and Analyses for the Structures**

Slope stability analyses for the CCW impoundments should be performed on the maximum section of each CCW impoundment with a phreatic surface representative of steady seepage with normal water surface conditions assuming no liner. The slope stability analysis should be presented relative to the appropriate dam analysis guidelines such as the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, or the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

**12.2 Corrective Measures Required for Instrumentation and Monitoring Procedures**

Daily water levels of the CCW impoundments are monitored by plant staff and recorded monthly. No piezometers or settlement monuments are installed at CCW impoundments. It is recommended that a more thorough instrumentation and monitoring program be developed and implemented that would include, at a minimum, settlement monuments installed along the perimeter dikes of the impoundments that receive wet coal combustion waste. Additionally, we recommended that high level alarms be installed and incorporated into the CCW impoundments.

**12.3 Corrective Measures Required for Maintenance and Surveillance Procedures**

We recommended IPSC personnel develop and document formal inspections of the CCW impoundments, at a minimum to be performed annually by plant staff. We recommend a brief daily check inspection be conducted by IPSC personnel and that a written record be maintained for the monthly inspections being conducted by IPSC personnel. Also, continue efforts to repair minor erosion rills observed on the embankment slopes. Due to the lack of erosion protection, minor erosion rills should be repaired promptly to prevent extensive damage to the embankment slopes.

**12.4 Corrective Measures Required for the Methods of Operation of the Project Works**

None.

**12.5 Summary**

The following factors were the main considerations in determining the final rating of the CCW impoundments at IGS.

- The dikes at the Bottom Ash Basins and Wastewater Holding Basin are Low-Hazard structures based on federal and state classifications.
- The CCW impoundments were generally observed to be in good condition in the field assessment.
- There is no stability analysis on record for the CCW impoundments.
- There is currently no instrumentation in place for the CCW impoundments, except for staff gages and groundwater monitoring wells. There is no method of accurately monitoring of perimeter dike performance (i.e., movement, settlement, etc.).
- Operational procedures are considered adequate.