

## **Coal Combustion Residue Impoundment Round 12 - Dam Assessment Report**

Big Brown Steam Electric Station Bottom Ash Pond Fairfield, Texas Luminant Generation Co., LLC

## **Prepared for:**

United States Environmental Protection Agency Office of Resource Conservation and Recovery

## **Prepared by:**

Dewberry Consultants LLC Fairfax, Virginia



Under Contract Number: EP-09W001727 March 2014

### INTRODUCTION, SUMMARY CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The release of over five million cubic yards of coal combustion residue from the Tennessee Valley Authority's Kingston, Tennessee facility in December 2008, which flooded more than 300 acres of land and damaged homes and property, is a wake-up call for diligence on coal combustion residue disposal units. A first step toward this goal is to assess the stability and functionality of the ash impoundments and other units, then quickly take any needed corrective measures.

This assessment of the stability and functionality of the Big Brown Steam Electric Station Bottom Ash Pond impoundment dikes is based on a review of available documents and on the site assessment conducted by Dewberry personnel on September 26, 2012. We found the supporting technical documentation adequate (Section 1.1.3). Subsequent to the submittal of Dewberry's Draft report, Luminant provided the Ash Pond Slope Stability Investigation Report conducted by Golder Associates.

Based on the new information, the Big Brown Steam Electric Station Bottom Ash Pond management unit is **SATISFACTORY** for continued safe and reliable operation.

### PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is investigating the potential for catastrophic failure of Coal Combustion Surface Impoundments (i.e., management unit) from occurring at electric utilities in an effort to protect lives and property from the consequences of a dam failure or the improper release of impounded slurry. The EPA initiative is intended to identify conditions that may adversely affect the structural stability and functionality of a management unit and its appurtenant structures (if present); to note the extent of deterioration (if present), status of maintenance and/or a need for immediate repair; to evaluate conformity with current design and construction practices; and to determine the hazard potential classification for units not currently classified by the management unit owner or by a state or federal agency. The initiative will address management units that are classified as having a Less-than-Low, Low, Significant, or High Hazard Potential ranking (for Classification, see pp. 3-8 of the 2004 Federal Guidelines for Dam Safety).

In early 2009, the EPA sent letters to coal-fired electric utilities seeking information on the safety of surface impoundments and similar facilities that receive liquid-borne material that store or dispose of coal combustion residue. This letter was issued under the authority of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) Section 104(e), to assist the Agency in assessing the structural stability and functionality of such management units, including which facilities should be visited to perform a safety assessment of the berms, dikes, and dams used in the construction of these impoundments.

EPA requested that utility companies identify all management units including surface impoundments or similar diked or bermed management units or management units designated as landfills that receive liquid-borne material used for the storage or disposal of residuals or byproducts from the combustion of coal, including, but not limited to, fly ash, bottom ash, boiler slag, or flue gas emission control residuals. Utility companies provided information on the size, design, age and the amount of material placed in the units.

The purpose of this report is **to evaluate the condition and potential of residue release from management units and to determine the hazard potential classification**. This evaluation included a site visit. Prior to conducting the site visit, a two-person team reviewed the information submitted to EPA, reviewed any relevant publicly available information from state or federal agencies regarding the unit hazard potential classification (if any) and accepted information provided via telephone communication with the management unit owner.

This report presents the opinion of the assessment team as to the potential of catastrophic failure and reports on the condition of the management unit(s).

Note: The terms "embankment", "berm", "dike" and "dam" are used interchangeably within this report, as are the terms "pond", "basin", and "impoundment".

## **LIMITATIONS**

The assessment of dam safety reported herein is based on field observations and review of readily available information provided by the owner/operator of the subject coal combustion residue management unit(s). Qualified Dewberry engineering personnel performed the field observations and review and made the assessment in conformance with the required scope of work and in accordance with reasonable and acceptable engineering practices. No other warranty, either written or implied, is made with regard to our assessment of dam safety.

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#### APPENDIX A

- Doc 01: Bottom Ash Pond Design Drawing 119-1134-301 Sheets 1 3
- Doc 02: Big Brown Bottom Ash Pond Weekly Inspection Reports for September 6 and 11, 2012
- Doc 03: Big Brown Critical Impoundment Inspection Report, Luminant Fossil Engineering Services, February 21, 2011
- Doc 04: Big Brown Critical Impoundment Inspection Report, HDR Engineering, Inc., April 19, 2012
- Doc 05: NPDES Permit No. TN 85003-0-02
- Doc 06: FLOW CHART, Big Brown Steam Electric Station

#### APPENDIX B

Doc 07: Dam Inspection Check List Lime and Ash Pond

#### APPENDIX C

Doc 08: Ash Pond Slope Stability Investigation Report, Golder Associates Inc. November 2012 (Revised December 2012)



#### 1.0 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

#### 1.1 CONCLUSIONS

Conclusions are based on visual observations from a one-day site visit, September 26, 2012, and review of technical documentation provided by the Luminant.

1.1.1 Conclusions Regarding the Structural Soundness of the Management Unit(s)

The dike embankments appear to be structurally sound based on Dewberry engineers' observations during the site visit. However, documentation of slope stability Factors of Safety under static and seismic conditions for the Bottom Ash Pond was not provided for review. Subsequent to Dewberry's Draft submittal Golder Associates completed the Ash Pond slope stability analyses (See Doc 08 in Appendix C). Based on the new documentation of slope stability factors of safety, the embankments are rated SATISFACTORY for structural soundness.

1.1.2 Conclusions Regarding the Hydrologic/Hydraulic Safety of the Management Unit

Documentation of the hydrologic and hydraulic safety was not provided to Dewberry for review. However, since the pond only receives ash sluice water at a controlled rate and direct rainfall, the safety of the pond can be determined without an extensive hydrologic analysis. The normal pool elevation of the Bottom Ash Pond is managed to a relatively constant +347 feet, providing a 3-ft. freeboard. Dewberry examined the 100-year rainfall event and compared the data with the available freeboard. The freeboard should be adequate to contain the one-percent probability, 24hour precipitation event (10.6 inches) without overtopping the impoundment embankments.

Based on the information reviewed the management unit is rated SATISFACTORY for hydrologic and hydraulic safety.

1.1.3 Conclusions Regarding the Adequacy of Supporting Technical Documentation

The supporting technical documentation is adequate although no documentation for the hydrologic and hydraulic safety analyses was provided to Dewberry for review.

1.1.4 Conclusions Regarding the Description of the Management Unit(s)

The description of the management unit provided by the owner was an accurate representation of what Dewberry observed in the field.

1.1.5 Conclusions Regarding the Field Observations

Dewberry staff was provided access to all areas in the vicinity of the management unit required to conduct a thorough field observation. The visible parts of the embankments were observed to have no signs of overstress, significant settlement, shear failure, or other signs of instability. Embankments appear structurally sound. There are no apparent indications of unsafe conditions or conditions needing remedial action.

The Bottom Ash Pond does not have an outlet spillway. After the bottom ash is collected at the dewatering bins, the transport water is returned to the two-celled Bottom Ash Pond at the east end of the impoundment. Water, from sluice water and precipitation, is removed using a 42-in. diameter pipe through the west end of each cell. The discharge pipes lead to below grade control valves which are used to recycle water back through the plant.

1.1.6 Conclusions Regarding the Adequacy of Maintenance and Methods of Operation

The Bottom Ash Pond appears to be well maintained with no outstanding issues.

1.1.7 Conclusions Regarding the Adequacy of the Surveillance and Monitoring Program

The Bottom Ash Pond monitoring program consists of reading groundwater levels, and collecting samples for water quality testing from the piezometers installed near the toe of the embankments. Piezometer readings are taken on a semi-annual basis.

The surveillance program consists of weekly inspections with results recorded on site checklists, and formal annual inspections documented with formal written report.

1.1.8 Classification Regarding Suitability for Continued Safe and Reliable Operation

The Bottom Ash Pond Cell impoundment embankments are rated SATISFACTORY for continued safe and reliable operation.

#### 1.2 RECOMMENDATIONS

1.2.1 Recommendations Regarding Structural Stability

Based on the new report (Ash Pond Slope Stability Investigation Report, See Doc 08 in Appendix C) no recommendations are warranted regarding structural stability.

1.2.2 Recommendations Regarding the Supporting Technical Documentation

Since Dewberry issuance of the Draft Report Luminant submitted additional documentation, see Doc 08 in Appendix C. The supporting technical documentation is adequate.

1.2.3 Recommendations Regarding Continued Safe and Reliable Operation

No recommendations for continued safe and reliable operation of the management unit are warranted at this time.

#### 1.3 PARTICIPANTS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

1.3.1 List of Participants

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1.3.2 Acknowledgement and Signature

We acknowledge that the management unit referenced herein instead assessed on August 20, 2012.

sech P. Klein, III, P.E.

Big Brown Steam Electric Station Luminant Generation Co., LLC Fairfield, TX

MICHAEL J. MCLAR McLare Michael

Coal Combustion Residue Impoundment Dam Assessment Report

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# 2.0 DESCRIPTION OF THE COAL COMBUSTION RESIDUE MANAGEMENT UNIT(S)

### 2.1 LOCATION AND GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The Big Brown Steam Electric Station (Big Brown SES) is located on Texas Farm to Market (FM) Route 2570 about 10 miles northeast of Fairfield, Freestone County, Texas. Fairfield is about 140 miles northwest of Houston, Texas. The coordinates of the plant site are 31.8218° N and 96.0610° W. The site abuts the northeast corner of Fairfield reservoir, which was constructed to provide cooling water for the plant.

The Bottom Ash Pond is a single diked impoundment divided into two cells by an interior divider dike. The impoundment is about 1,400 feet long by about 600 feet wide. The long axis is oriented in the east-west direction. The impoundment is divided into two approximately equal cells, designated the North and South Ash Ponds. The cells are separated by an engineered divider dike that was part of the original facility constructions. Figure 2.1a depicts a vicinity map around the Big Brown SES. Figure 2.1b depicts an aerial view of the Big Brown SES and the CCR impoundment. Table 2.1 presents size information about the active disposal areas.



Figure 2.1 a: Big Brown SES Plant Vicinity Map



Figure 2.1 b: Big Brown SES and Bottom Ash Impoundment Locations

Table 2.1: Summary of Dam Dimensions and Size <sup>1</sup>				
Bottom Ash Pond				
Dam Height (ft)	25			
Crest Width (ft)	25			
Length (ft)	4,000			
Side Slopes (upstream) H:V	2.5:1			
Sida Slange (downstroom) H.V	2.0:1 to 2.2:1 varies by			
Side Slopes (downstream) H: V	location			

<sup>1</sup>Dimensions based on design drawings prepared by Luminant (See Appendix A – Doc 01)

### 2.2 COAL COMBUSTION RESIDUE HANDLING

### 2.2.1 Fly Ash

Information provided by Luminant indicates that fly ash is handled dry for off-site beneficial reuse or land disposal.

2.2.2 Bottom Ash

Bottom ash is sluiced to bins and dewatered. After dewatering, bottom ash is transported offsite for beneficial re-use or land disposal as solid waste. (Photograph 2.2.2-1).



Photograph 2.2.2-1: Ash sluice water return pipes from dewatering bins to Bottom Ash Pond

2.2.3 Boiler Slag

Boiler slag is handled with the bottom ash.

2.2.4 Flue Gas Desulfurization Sludge

No scrubbers are used in this plant so there is no flue gas desulfurization (FGD) process or related waste products to be discharged.

## 2.3 SIZE AND HAZARD CLASSIFICATION

Based on the size of the Bottom Ash Pond embankment height and impoundment storage capacity, the impoundment would be classified as Small by US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) criteria.

Table 2.2a: USACE ER 1110-2-106Size Classification					
Impoundment					
Category	Storage (Ac-ft) Height (ft)				
Small	50 and < 1,000	25 and < 40			
Intermediate	1,000 and < 50,000	40 and < 100			
Large > 50,000 > 100					

Federal guidelines for dam safety hazard classification use two criteria: potential loss of human life and economic, environmental and lifeline losses. Per the Federal Guidelines for Dam Safety dated April 2004, a Significant Hazard Potential classification applies to those dams where failure or misoperation results in no probable loss of human life but can cause economic loss, environmental damage,

disruption of lifeline facilities, or can impact other concerns. Significant Hazard Potential dams are often located in agricultural areas.

Luminant representatives reported that the company owns most of the property in the vicinity of the plant, including the lake and dam. Land near the south end of the lake operated as a State Park is owned by Luminant and leased to the State of Texas for a nominal amount. Failure or misoperation of the impoundment is not expected to result in a probable loss of human life, and the economic and environmental looses are expected to be contained on the owner's property. Therefore, a Federal Hazard Classification of **LOW** is appropriate for these facilities.

Table 2.2b: FEMA Federal Guidelines for Dam SafetyHazard Classification					
Classification Loss of Human Life Economic or Environmental					
	Damage				
Low	None Expected	Low and generally limited to			
	owner site				
Significant	None Expected	Yes			
High	Probable. One or more	Yes (but not necessary for			
expected classification)					

# 2.4 AMOUNT AND TYPE OF RESIDUALS CURRENTLY CONTAINED IN THE UNIT(S) AND MAXIMUM CAPACITY

The Bottom Ash Pond generally only receives sluiced bottom ash and direct precipitation.

	Bottom Ash Pond
Surface Area (acre)	19.3
Current Storage Capacity (cubic yards)	110,352
Current Storage Capacity (acre-feet)	68.4
Total Storage Capacity (cubic yards)	367,840
Total Storage Capacity (acre-feet)	228
Crest Elevation (feet)	+350.0
Normal Pond Level (feet)	+347.0

## 2.5 PRINCIPAL PROJECT STRUCTURES

2.5.1 Earth Embankment

The embankments consist of compacted earth fill with a 3-ft. thick compacted clay liner on the inside slope. Geotextile erosion control fabric



has been installed along the inside slope to mitigate the impacts of wind driven wave action.

The exterior slopes are vegetated with various grasses and small weeds. The slopes are free of trees, tall bushes, or other vegetation potentially deleterious to slope stability.

#### 2.5.2 Outlet Structures

Sluice water in each Bottom Ash Pond cell drains to the west portion of the cell. A concrete pipe drop inlet riser allows decant water into a reinforced concrete discharge pipe that passes through the west embankment to a valve control pit. The discharge pipe diameters are 30-in. at the north cell and 42-in. at the south cell. The inlet elevation of the decant risers is +342.7 ft.

There are no other outlets from the Bottom Ash Pond.

#### 2.6 CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE WITHIN FIVE MILES DOWN GRADIENT

The Big Brown SES is located near the northeast corner of Fairfield Lake, about 10 miles northeast of Fairfield Texas. Area topographic conditions are shown on Figure 2.6-1. Observations of the area around the plant site and nearby roads did not identify critical infrastructure within 5 miles of the plant other than the electric transmission lines from the plant.



Figure 2.6-1: Bottom Ash Pond Area Topography



### 3.0 SUMMARY OF RELEVANT REPORTS, PERMITS, AND INCIDENTS

#### 3.1 SUMMARY OF REPORTS ON THE SAFETY OF THE MANAGEMENT UNITS

Luminant provided representative 2012 weekly inspection reports prepared by plant personnel for the Bottom Ash Pond. The inspection reports focus on the Bottom Ash Pond pool elevation, and observations of the embankments. No issues were identified in the reports provided which covered inspections for September 6, 2012 and September 11, 2012 (See Appendix A – Doc 2).

Luminant also provided the 2011 annual inspection report prepared by Luminant technical staff, and the 2012 annual inspection report prepared by HDR Engineering, Inc. Findings of the 2011 inspections were generally minor issues related to erosion from recent rains, vegetation maintenance, and animal scrapings disturbing areas of the embankment slopes (See Appendix A – Doc 3).

The 2012 annual inspection report indicates the inspection was conducted shortly after several day of rain of about 1.2 in. fell at the plant. Findings of the 2012 report were generally minor issues related to erosion rills, animal burrows, areas of standing water near the toe of the slope, tire ruts on the embankment crest, and vegetation maintenance (See Appendix A – Docs 3 and 4).

# 3.2 SUMMARY OF LOCAL, STATE, AND FEDERAL ENVIRONMENTAL PERMITS

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality has issued a Texas Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit. Permit No. WQ0001309000 was issued April 18, 2007 (See Appendix A – Doc 05). The permit expired February 1, 2012. Luminant submitted an application for renewal which is still being reviewed by the State.

#### 3.3 SUMMARY OF SPILL/RELEASE INCIDENTS

No recent documented spills or releases have been reported for the Bottom Ash Pond.



#### 4.0 SUMMARY OF HISTORY OF CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION

#### 4.1 SUMMARY OF CONSTRUCTION HISTORY

4.1.1 Original Construction

Based on construction drawings provided to Dewberry for review, the Bottom Ash Pond was designed and constructed in 1989. Dimensions of the Bottom Ash Pond are about 1,600 feet at the base along the east-west axis, and 600 feet along the north-south axis (See Appendix A – Doc. 1). The pond is divided into north and south cells by an interior divided dike.

The dikes were constructed of compacted soil fill excavated from within the pond plan area.

Discharge from each of the two cells in the Bottom Ash Pond is through a pipe to a valve pit located near the toe of the west embankment. Valves in the pit control flow back to the plant for recycling. There are no other outlets from the Bottom Ash Pond (See Appendix A – Doc 01). In an emergency, portable pumps would be deployed to pump water from the impoundment into the nearby plant cooling water discharge canal.

Each cell receives sluiced bottom ash and boiler slag through dedicated pipes. In the event there is a need to transfer liquid between cells, a mobile pump connected to HDPE pipes is used. The HDPE pipes are located at the opposite end of the ponds from the incoming sluice pipes.

4.1.2 Significant Changes/Modifications in Design since Original Construction

Drawings provided to Dewberry during the site visit indicate the embankment design was modified in 1999 to include a 3-ft. thick compacted clay liner along the interior side of the embankments and the impoundment bottom. Drawing General Notes specify that the clay liners shall have a permeability of  $1 \times 10^{-7}$  cm/sec.

The 1999 design also modified the discharge pipe from the south cell by replacing the original 30-in. diameter concrete pipe with a 42-in. diameter concrete pipe. Other modifications included adjustments to the outfall access bridges, and sluice pipe support structures to accommodate the addition of the 3-ft. thick liner.

4.1.3 Significant Repairs/Rehabilitation since Original Construction

No significant repairs or rehabilitation have been made to the Bottom Ash Pond other than the 1999 design changes.

### 4.2 SUMMARY OF OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES

4.2.1 Original Operational Procedures

Bottom ash from coal combustion is sluiced to dewatering bins. Bottom ash sluice water flows to the Bottom Ash Pond. The bottom ash from the de-watering bins is transported off-site for beneficial re-use or land disposal as solid waste (See Appendix A - Doc. 06).

The Bottom Ash Pond may also receive metal-cleaning wastes, and waste water treatment wastes. However, fly ash is normally managed dry and transported off-site for beneficial reuse or land disposal as solid waste.

Big Brown SES does not have scrubbers.

4.2.2 Significant Changes in Operational Procedures and Original Startup

Based on information provided to Dewberry during the site visit, no significant change in operational procedures have been made since the 1999 design upgrades were completed.

4.2.3 Current Operational Procedures

Based on observations made during the Dewberry site visit current operations are substantively the same as described in the original operational procedures.

4.2.4 Other Notable Events since Original Startup

No notable events were reported to Dewberry during our site visit.



#### 5.0 FIELD OBSERVATIONS

#### 5.1 PROJECT OVERVIEW AND SIGNIFICANT FINDINGS

Dewberry personnel Michael McLaren, P.E., and Joseph P. Klein, III, P.E. conducted a site visit on September 26, 2012 in company with the participants.

The site visit began at 9:00 AM. The weather was sunny and warm. Photographs were taken of conditions observed. Please refer to the Dam Inspection Checklist in Appendix B for additional information. Selected photographs are included here for ease of visual reference. All pictures were taken by Dewberry personnel during the site visit. Copies of all photographs were provided to Luminant representatives.

The overall visual assessment of the dam slopes was that the dikes are in satisfactory condition and no significant findings were noted.

#### 5.2 BOTTOM ASH POND

#### 5.2.1 Crest

Overall, there were no signs of rutting, depressions, tension cracking, or other indications of settlement or shear failure and the crest appeared to be in satisfactory condition (see Figure 5.2.1-1).



Figure 5.2.1-1 North Dike Crest View West Along Bottom Ash Pond

#### 5.2.2 Upstream/Inside Slope

No scarps, sloughs, depressions, bulging or other indications of slope instability were observed (see Figure 5.2.2-1). Vegetation along the interior slope generally consisted of various types of grass and weeds.



Figure 5.2.2-1 Interior Slope South Embankment

Isolated areas of erosion from wind generated waves were observed on the interior slopes of the east and west embankments. It appears that recent lack of rain has had an adverse impact on vegetation planted to mitigate wave erosion. (See Figure 5.2.2-2)



Figure 5.2.2-2 Area of Interior Slope Erosion – West Embankment



5.2.3 Downstream/Outside Slope and Toe

No scarps, sloughs, depressions, bulging or other indications of slope instability or signs of erosion were observed. Exterior slopes were vegetated with grass, and weeds (See Figure 5.2.3-1).



Figure 5.2.3-1 North Embankment Outside Slope and Toe

The plant cooling water discharge canal passes near the center of the north embankment on its path to the main lake (See Figure 5.2.3-2)



Figure 5.2.3-2 Plant Cooling Water Discharge Canal near Bottom Ash Pond North Embankment

No evidence of seepage was observed in the exterior slopes or along the toe of the embankments.

5.2.4 Abutments and Groin Areas

The Bottom Ash Pond is a fully diked impoundment with no abutments. Groins were found to be in satisfactory condition with no signs of distress (See Figure 5.2.4-1)



Figure 5.2.4-1: Bottom Ash Pond Northeast Groin

## 5.3 OUTLET STRUCTURES

5.3.1 Overflow Structure

The north and south cells of the Bottom Ash Pond each have an overflow structure. Each overflow structure consists of a concrete pipe riser connected to an outlet conduit. The overflow structure consists of a concrete riser pipe with an inlet elevation of +342.5. The riser diameters are 30-in. and 42-in. in the north and south cells respectively.

Access to the overflow structure is provided by a steel framed bridge (See Figure 5.3.1-1).



Figure 5.3.3-1: Access Bridge to Riser Structure; Bottom Ash Pond South Cell

The pipe along the top of the access bridge is the HDPE pipe that can be connected to a mobile pump for transferring water between pond cells.

5.3.2 Outlet Conduit

The north and south cells of the Bottom Ash Pond each have a concrete pipe through the embankment to a valve chamber near the exterior toe of the embankment. The valves direct the discharge back to the plant for recycling.

The HDPE pipe located in the outlet access bridge was installed to facilitate transferring water between the north and south cells. Temporary, mobile pumps can be connected to the pipes as operational conditions require. Dewberry was informed that transfer of water between cells is not done on a regular basis.

5.3.3 Emergency Spillway

The Bottom Ash Pond does not have an emergency spillway. In the event of an emergency, a temporary, mobile pump would be used to pump water from the impoundment to the plant cooling water discharge canal located to the south.

5.3.4 Low Level Outlet

The Bottom Ash Pond does not have a low level outlet.



#### 6.0 HYDROLOGIC/HYDRAULIC SAFETY

#### 6.1 SUPPORTING TECHNICAL DOCUMENTATION

6.1.1 Flood of Record

No documentation has been provided about the flood of record.

6.1.2 Inflow Design Flood

According to FEMA Federal Guidelines for Dam Safety, the current practice in the design of dams is to use the Inflow Design Flood (IDF) that is deemed appropriate for the hazard potential of the dam and reservoir, and to design spillways and outlet works that are capable of safely accommodating the flood flow without risking the loss of the dam or endangering areas downstream from the dam to flows greater than the inflow. The recommended IDF or spillway design flood for a low hazard, small-sized structure (See section 2.2) in accordance with the USACE Recommended Guidelines for Safety Inspection of Dams ER 1110-2-106 criteria is the 50 to100 year storm (See Table 6.1.2).

Table 6.1.2: USACE Hydrologic Evaluation GuidelinesRecommended Spillway Design Floods				
HazardSizeSpillway Design Flood				
	Small	50- to 100-year frequency		
Low	Intermediate	100-year to <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> PMF		
	Large	<sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> PMF to PMF		
	Small	100-year to <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> PMF		
Significant	Intermediate	<sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> PMF to PMF		
	Large	PMF		
	Small	<sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> PMF to PMF		
High	Intermediate	PMF		
	Large	PMF		

No hydrologic and hydraulic documentation was provided to Dewberry for review.

A brief internet search by Dewberry found data from indicating the one percent probability in any given year (100-year storm) 24- hour precipitation in Freestone County, Texas is 10.6 inches (www.onlinemanuals.txdot.gov/txdotmanuals/hyd/p24lkup.xls).

6.1.3 Spillway Rating

The Bottom Ash Pond does not have a spillway discharge. The method of discharge from the impoundment is recirculation pumping from risers and conduits through the embankment of each cell to recycle water to the plant.

6.1.4 Downstream Flood Analysis

No downstream flood analysis was provided.

## 6.2 ADEQUACY OF SUPPORTING TECHNICAL DOCUMENTATION

Supporting documentation from the utility and reviewed by Dewberry is inadequate since no hydrologic and hydraulic safety analyses were provided. However, national rainfall data available to Dewberry is sufficient to determine whether the impoundment is safe from floods and overflows.

## 6.3 ASSESSMENT OF HYDROLOGIC/HYDRAULIC SAFETY

The crest elevation of the Bottom Ash Pond is a minimum of 8 feet above the adjacent exterior grade. Stormwater into the impoundment is expected to be limited to direct rainfall.

The normal pool elevation of the Bottom Ash Pond is managed to a relatively constant +347 feet, providing a 3-ft. freeboard. The freeboard should be adequate to contain the one-percent probability, 24-hour precipitation event (10.6 inches) without overtopping the impoundment embankments.

#### 7.0 STRUCTURAL STABILITY

#### 7.1 SUPPORTING TECHNICAL DOCUMENTATION

7.1.1 Stability Analyses and Load Cases Analyzed

Subsequent to Dewberry's Draft report submittal, Luminant provided slope stability analyses for the Ash Pond (See Doc 08 in Appendix C).

Slope stability analyses were performed using the commercial slope stability software program, SLIDE Version 6.0. The typical containment dike section has an interior (wet side) slope of 2.5 horizontal to 1 vertical (2.5H:1V) and a minimum exterior (dry side) slope of 2H:1V. The crest elevation of the containment dike is at approximately 350 ft-msl. The ponds are lined with 3 feet of compacted clay. The top of liner elevation on the pond floors is approximately 328 ft-msl. The most critical slope geometry was identified along the west sideslope, consisting of an approximately 24-foot high, 1.7H:1V slope.

Stability analyses were performed for four (4) separate slope sections to assess the various soil conditions and slope geometries around the ponds. Stability analyses considered "empty pond" and "full pond" conditions.

A rapid drawdown scenario was analyzed for one full pond condition at each section. The analysis was completed on the drained or undrained section with the lower factor of safety in the full condition. The analysis was completed using the B-bar method to simulate the effects of rapid drawdown in a low permeability material such as the sandy clays and clayey sands encountered at Big Brown. The initial water level was modeled as the full condition and the final water level was modeled at the pond floor, representing a final condition after drawdown where the pond is empty.

The most critical slope geometry was identified along the east sideslope. The effect of pseudo-static<sup>1</sup> earthquake loading was also analyzed at this location. The plant is not located in a seismic zone (Reference: Figure 6 of EM 1110-2-1902, "Stability of Earth and Rock-Fill Dams", U.S. Army

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The pseudostatic method is a simplified method for determining seismic slope stability that is based on the same approach (i.e., limit equilibrium) used in analyzing static slope stability. In current practice, the pseudostatic method of analysis is used primarily as a screening tool to help assess whether an embankment dam or slope requires a more detailed seismic slope analysis. The pseudostatic method ignores cyclic loading of the earthquake, but accounts for seismicity by applying an equivalent static force on the slope. In the limit equilibrium approach bearing capacity and stress-strain relationship of the soil is not considered, so the method should not be used for sensitive clays and other materials that lose shear strength during an earthquake or loose soils located below the groundwater table subject to liquefaction.

Corps of Engineers, 1970), so a nominal seismic coefficient of 0.01g was therefore used in the earthquake loading analysis.

7.1.2 Design Parameters and Dam Materials

The Golder Associates report, Ash Pond Slope Stability Investigation Report (See Appendix C – Doc 08) included design parameters and dam material information used for modeling structural stability. Table 7.1 presents parametric values for impoundment materials from the report that were used in the stability analyses

Table 7.1 Soil Material Properties						
	Moist	Saturated	Undrained Soil F	roperties	Drained Soi	l Properties
Soil	Unit	Unit	Undrained Shear	Friction	Cohosian	Friction
Material	Weight	Weight	Strength, s <sub>u</sub>	Angle ø	$c^{2}$ (1b/ft <sup>2</sup> )	Angle ø
	$(lb/ft^3)$	$(lb/ft^3)$	$(lb/ft^2)$	(°)	C (10/11)	(°)
Sandy Clay/	127	132	1500	0	1000	14
Clayey Sand	127	132	1300	0	1000	14
Clean Sand	127	132	0	29	0	29

### 7.1.3 Uplift and/or Phreatic Surface Assumptions

No documentation of uplift force or phreatic surface assumptions was provided to Dewberry for review.

7.1.4 Factors of Safety and Base Stresses

Slope stability analyses were performed for both short-term and long-term conditions using undrained and drained soil properties, respectively. The results of the analyses are provided in Table 7.2. A factor of safety of 1.5 is typically considered adequate for permanent slopes. The minimum calculated factor of safety from our analyses is 2.5 (Case 2) for normal loading conditions. The analyses indicate that the slopes are stable. Additionally, slope stability analyses for rapid drawdown and earthquake conditions have factors of safety greater than 1.5 as well.

TABLE 7.2 SLOPE STABILITY FACTORS OF SAFETY				
Case	Description	Factor of Safety	Inside/outside slope	
1	East sideslope; empty pond; short-term (undrained)	2.6	Inside	
	conditions			
2	East sideslope; empty pond; long-term (drained) conditions	2.5	Inside	
3	East sideslope; full pond; short-term (undrained) conditions	5.7	Inside	
4	East sideslope; full pond; long-term (drained) conditions	5.9	Inside	
5	East sideslope; empty pond; long-term conditions; <b>seismic</b> , earthquake loading analysis	2.4	Inside	
6	East sideslope; rapid drawdown	2.6	Inside	
7	North sideslope; empty pond; short-term (undrained) conditions	3.3	Inside	
8	North sideslope; empty pond; long-term (drained) conditions	3.2	Inside	
9	North sideslope; full pond; short-term (undrained) conditions	6.3	Inside	
10	North sideslope; full pond; long-term (drained) conditions	6.6	Inside	
11	North sideslope; rapid drawdown	3.1	Inside	
12	Northeast sideslope; empty pond; short-term (undrained) conditions	3.5	Outside	
13	Northeast sideslope; empty pond; long-term (drained) conditions	3.6	Outside	
14	Northeast sideslope; full pond; short-term (undrained) conditions	3.5	Outside	
15	Northeast sideslope; full pond; long-term (drained) conditions	3.6	Outside	
16	Northeast sideslope; rapid drawdown	3.6	Outside	
17	West sideslope; empty pond; short-term (undrained) conditions	5.5	Outside	
18	West sideslope; empty pond; long-term (drained) conditions	4.4	Outside	
19	West sideslope; full pond; short-term (undrained) conditions	5.4	Outside	
20	West sideslope; full pond; long-term (drained) conditions	4.4	Outside	
21	West sideslope; rapid drawdown	4.4	Outside	

#### 7.1.5 Liquefaction Potential

The soils encountered in the borings are not susceptible to liquefaction.

The 2008 U.S.G.S. seismic risk map indicates the estimated peak ground acceleration for an earthquake having a two percent probability of exceedance in 50 years is 0.04g.

### 7.1.6 Critical Geological Conditions

Critical geologic conditions were determined from maps in the *Geologic Atlas of* Texas, accessed on the Texas Water Development Board website.<sup>2</sup> The sequence of geologic formations from the surface included the Calvert Bluff, Simsboro, and Hooper formations.

The Calvert Bluff formation includes sandy to silty clays between seams of lignite. The lignite is surface mined to provide fuel for the Big Brown SES. The thickness of the Calvert Formation is several hundred feet. The Calvert Bluff Formation is underlain by the Simsboro Formation consisting of well-sorted fine to coarse sand with lenses of mudstone. The Hooper formation which underlies the Simsboro Formation consists of mudstone and sandstone.

### 7.2 ADEQUACY OF SUPPORTING TECHNICAL DOCUMENTATION

Subsequent to Dewberry's Draft report submittal, Luminant provided slope stability analyses for the Ash Pond (See Doc 08 in Appendix C). Based on the new information provide the structural stability documentation is adequate to support a quantitative analysis of the stability of the embankments impounding the Bottom Ash Pond.

### 7.3 ASSESSMENT OF STRUCTURAL STABILITY

Overall, the structural stability of the Bottom Ash Pond embankment appears to be **Satisfactory** based on the following observations:

• Safety factors for static stability and seismic stability meet the minimum required by the US Army Corp of Engineers guidance.

<sup>2</sup> Texas Water Development Board web site: www.txwb.state.tx.us/groundwater/acquifer/GAT/



#### 8.0 ADEQUACY OF MAINTENANCE AND METHODS OF OPERATION

#### 8.1 OPERATING PROCEDURES

Dehydrated bottom ash and boiler slag are collected in dewatering bins and transported off-site for beneficial re-use or land disposal as solid waste.. The Bottom Ash Pond also receives process water and precipitation runoff (See Appendix A –Doc 6). There are dedicated pipes feeding each the north and south cells of the impoundment. Sluiced ash is piped to the east end of each cell. Sluice water is recycled through a decant riser at the west end of each cell. The outlet pipes connect to a valve box near the exterior toe of the south cell. Standard operating procedures are for the valves to route water back to the plant for recycling. In the event of unexpected conditions, the valves are reset to send water to a Bottom Ash Treatment Pond, which is the TXPDES permitted outfall for the plant.

Water transfer between pond cells is not a frequent event, but when required it is accomplished using a temporary mobile pump and HDPE pipes attached to the top of the decant riser system access bridge.

Emergency drainage of the Bottom Ash Pond is conducted using mobile pumps and discharging water to the plant discharge canal near the south side of the impoundment.

#### 8.2 MAINTENANCE OF THE DAM AND PROJECT FACILITIES

Maintenance of the impoundment generally consists of mowing the exterior slopes and toe areas, periodic grading of the crest, and repairing anomalies reported in weekly inspection reports.

#### 8.3 ASSESSMENT OF MAINTENANCE AND METHODS OF OPERATIONS

8.3.1 Adequacy of Operating Procedures

Based on assessments from received documents and the site visit, operating procedures appear to be adequate.

8.3.2 Adequacy of Maintenance

Based on assessments from received documents and the site visit, maintenance procedures appear to be adequate.



### 9.0 ADEQUACY OF SURVEILLANCE AND MONITORING PROGRAM

#### 9.1 SURVEILLANCE PROCEDURES

Normal plant surveillance procedures consist of weekly visual inspections of the Bottom Ash Pond. Results of the inspections are recorded on checklist reports and submitted to plant management.

Critical impoundment inspections are conducted annually, either by Luminant corporate technical staff, or outside technical consultants. Dewberry was provided copies of the February 2011 and April 2012 inspection reports prepared by engineers from the Luminant Fossil Engineering and Support group, and HDR Engineering, Inc. respectively (See Appendix A – Docs 3 and 4, respectively).

Although both reports included recommendations for relatively minor maintenance actions, no major concerns were identified. Findings in both reports were consistent with Dewberry's observations during our site visit.

#### 9.2 INSTRUMENTATION MONITORING

Instrumentation of the embankment consists of groundwater piezometers located outside the toe of the perimeter embankment (See Figure 9.2-1). The piezometers are read semi-annually and results reported to plant management.



Figure 9.2-1: Piezometer near Embankment Toe – Northwest Groin



#### 9.3 ASSESSMENT OF SURVEILLANCE AND MONITORING PROGRAM

#### 9.3.1 Adequacy of Inspection Program

Based on the data reviewed by Dewberry, including observations during the site visit, the inspection program is adequate.

9.3.2 Adequacy of Instrumentation Monitoring Program

Based on the data reviewed by Dewberry, including observations during the site visit, the monitoring program is adequate.

## APPENDIX A

## **Document 1**

# Bottom Ash Pond Design Drawing 119-1134-301 Sheets 1 - 3

Big Brown Steam Electric Station Luminant Generation Co., LLC Fairfield, TX

Coal Combustion Residue Impoundment Dam Assessment Report






## APPENDIX A

### **Document 2**

Big Brown Bottom Ash Pond Weekly Inspection Reports for September 6 and 11, 2012

Big Brown Steam Electric Station Luminant Generation Co., LLC Fairfield, TX

		BIG BROWN STEAM ELE	CTRIC STATION								
		Bottom Ash Pond I	nspection								
Inspe Date	Inspected by: <u>McNeu</u> Date of Inspection: <u>9-6-12</u> Permit MaSW-39099*										
Yes	No	Item	Deficiencies	Date Corrected							
	$\checkmark$	Visible leaks or corrosion associated with transfer piping for metal cleaning waste.									
]		Freeboard is a minimum of 3 feet. <u>Nth</u> Pond Elevation> 347 <u>Sth</u> Pond Elevation> 347									
	$\checkmark$	Evidence of overtopping of dikes.									
		Depressions, potholes. Or Washouts in flexbase of truck ramp or on top of containment dike.									
	~	Visible signs of erosion along external or internal slopes of containment dike.									
	ý	Bare spots in vegetative cover along external slope of dike.									
		Trees, brush, or other plants with root systems capable of penetrating clay liner.									
$\checkmark$	7	WMU signs prominently displayed.									
	~	Evidence of tank truck or plping spills/leaks.									

Maintain completed form with the WMC Compliance Plan for a period of three (3) years.

		BIG BROWN STEAM ELE	CTRIC STATION	
		Bottom Ash Pond I	nspection	
Inspe Date	cted b of Ins	pection: $9 - 11 - 12$		
Van	No	l Massa	Permit #. SW/	39099 Doto
Tes	NO	i letti	Denciencies	Corrected
	v	Visible leaks or corrosion associated with transfer piping for metal cleaning waste.		
		Freeboard is a minimum of 3 feet.		
1		Nth Pond Elevation> 3463 Sth Pond Elevation> 347		
	~	Evidence of overtopping of dikes.		
	~	Depressions, potholes. Or Washouts in flexbase of truck ramp or on top of containment dike.		
	~	Visible signs of erosion along external or internal slopes of containment dike.		
		Bare spots in vegetative cover along external slope of dike.		
	/	Trees, brush, or other plants with root systems capable of penetrating clay liner.		
/		WMU signs prominently displayed.		
	/	Evidence of tank truck or piping spills/leaks.		

Maintain completed form with the WMC Compliance Plan for a period of three (3) years.

## APPENDIX A

## **Document 3**

## Big Brown Critical Impoundment Inspection Report, Luminant Fossil Engineering Services, February 21, 2011

### Critical Impoundment Inspection Report

For

#### **Big Brown SES**

The attached report is based on an on-site inspection conducted on January 17, 2011 at Luminant's Big Brown Steam Electric Station located in Freestone County, Texas.

Draft Report date:	February 3, 2011
Final report date:	February 20, 2011
Added PE Seal:	February 21, 2011

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FOR INFORMATION ONLY

Report prepared by: Mark W. Kelly, P.E.

Luminant 500 N. Akard St., Dallas, TX 75201 Office: 214-875-8259 > Fax: 214-875-8284 Email: mark.kelly@luminant.com

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Pond Impoundment Inspections: North and South Bottom Ash Ponds Plant Operating Pond Storm Drain Pond Inactive Solid Waste Disposal Area

Appendix A – Critical Impoundment Worksheets: North Bottom Ash Pond South Bottom Ash Ponds Plant Operating Pond Storm Drain Pond Inactive Solid Waste Disposal Area

Appendix B -- Photo Locator Plans:

SK-1 Bottom Ash Pond 2010 Inspection Photo Locator Plan

SK-2 Plant Operating Pond 2010 Inspection Photo Locator Plan

SK-3 Storm Drain Pond 2010 Inspection Photo Locator Plan

SK-4 Inactive Solid Waste Disposal Area 2010 Inspection Photo Locator Plan

#### Introduction:

The critical impoundments at Big Brown SES were inspected for dike structural stability on January 17, 2011. The inspection was performed by Mark W. Kelly of Luminant Fossil Engineering Services and Will Steen of Luminant Big Brown SES. As shown on Figure 1, the impoundments inspected were: North Bottom Ash Pond, South Bottom Ash Pond, Plant Operating Pond, Storm Drain Pond and the Inactive Waste Disposal Area.



Figure 1: Big Brown Steam Electric Station Site Impoundments

The site had two days of rain fall prior to the inspection in the amounts of 1.15-in and 2.30-in on January 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>, 2011 respectively. At the time of inspection, the ground was moist with standing water in various locations.

Worksheets and photo location drawings for all impoundment inspections are included in Appendices A and B of this report.

The inspection of Big Brown's critical impoundments included a visual inspection of the inner and outer berms and crest for vegetative cover, erosion, misalignment, slides, settlement, damage and erosion, seeps, cracks, and lining condition.

#### North and South Bottom Ash Ponds:

The North and South Bottom Ash Ponds are adjacent to each other. They are clay-lined surface impoundments used to hold metal-cleaning wastes, waste water treatment wastes, and bottom ash contained in transporter sluice water. The rectangular impoundments measure approximately 1,400 feet by 264 feet at the crest. Each pond surface area is 9.6 acres. The slope of the dike is approximately 1:2.5, and the depth of the impoundments from the top of the dike to the top of the clay liner is 22 feet. Each pond will hold about 44 million gallons when the fluid level is at the top of the dike or about 38 million gallons (or 114 acre-feet) with 3 feet of freeboard.

Each impoundment is constructed with a compacted clay liner 3 feet thick underlying the bottom and interior dike slopes. The clay liner does not extend beyond the centerline of the crest.

The top of the dikes is approximately 14 to 21 feet above the surrounding grade. Surface runoff does not enter the impoundments.

On inspection day, the water elevations of South and North Bottom Ash Ponds were 347.0-feet. In 2010 both impoundments had their upstream slopes repaired and Recyclex erosion placed along the perimeter approximately 3-feet below and above the waterline. The Recyclex on the South Pond had been in place for 12 months at the time of the inspection and was found to be in good condition the vegetation is well established. The erosion protection at the North Pond had been in place approximately 4 months prior and was also performing well with the exception with one area. On the west side there was a gulley that has formed where the vegetation was not able to establish. This needs to be filled in and re-vegetated. The other major item noted is the extensive hog damage along the downstream slope on the south side of the South Pond. This should be smoothed out and reseeded to promote vegetation to take hold and prevent erosion. There are two minor action items identified including rutting at various locations on the crest and a few bean sprouts on the south side of the upstream embankment of the South Pond.

Photo locations in this report can be found in Appendix B on SK-1 "Bottom Ash Pond 2011 Inspection Photo Locator Plan."

Photos 1 and 2 show the Recyclex along the upstream slopes. Photo 1 is representative of the South Pond where the vegetation has been established. The North Pond (Photo 2) depicts the Recyclex on the North Pond where the vegetation is not widely established. This should take hold once the spring growth season starts.



Photos 3 and 4 show the two locations on the north side of the North Pond where erosion has occurred under the Recyclex. It is recommended these areas be filled in and allowed to re-vegetate.



Photos 5 and 6 depict the hog damage that was prevalent along the downstream embankment of the South Pond. This needs to be re-vegetated to prevent erosion.



Photo 7 shows bean sprouts on the center of the upstream embankment of the South Pond. This needs to be removed at the next routine scheduled maintenance.



Photos 8 and 9 are rutting along the crest. The ruts allow rainwater to collect, penetrate and potentially weaken the embankment. These should be repaired and care should be taken to avoid driving on the crest when the embankment has been softened by wet conditions. See SK-1 for the locations of the ruts.



#### **Plant Operating Pond:**

The Plant Operating Pond is located north of the plant near the Boral facilities.

The square Plant Operating Pond measures approximately 800 feet by 800 feet at the crest and is 24 feet deep. Surface area is approximately 14.7 acres. The pond capacity is about 83 million gallons. On the day of the inspection the pond level was recorded at 322.4-feet.

The impoundment is constructed with a 3-foot thick compacted clay liner underlying the bottom and interior dike slopes. The clay liner does not extend beyond the centerline of the crest. Riprap has been placed at the upstream corners and along the east end of the pond.

The top of the dike is above the surrounding grade on all sides. Surface runoff does not enter the impoundments.

Photo locations in this report can be found in Appendix B on SK-2 "Plant Operating Pond 2010 Inspection Photo Locator Plan."

Following are the observations with recommendations:

Rutting was absent from most of the crest except one location on the south east side where the rutting was deep and a large amount of water had collected. (Photo 1) This should be corrected as soon as possible as this water will penetrate and potentially weaken the embankment. Whenever possible, care should be taken to avoid driving on the embankment periods when the embankment is soft as a result of wet conditions.

# NOT IN SCOPE

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### **APPENDIX A**

### **INSPECTION WORKSHEETS**

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Impoundment: Nort	h Bo	ttom Ash Pond	Inspection Date: January 17, 2011	Weather: Cloudy and Cool							
Inspected By: Mark	Koll		Last Inspection Date: February 1, 2010	1							
				Change From Last Inspection				Action			
Area	Item	Condition Current Observations		Similar	Improved	Deteriorated	unknown	УО	Monitor	Repair	
	1	SURFACE CRACKING	Non Observed	X			unknown XXXX XXXX XXXX XXXX XXX XXX XXX XXX X				
	2	ANIMAL BURROWS	Non Observed	X				Х			
	3	CREST SINKS	Non Observed	X				Х			
Area CREST UPSTREAM EMBANKMENT	4	HORIZONTAL ALIGNMENT	Good	X				Х			
CREST	5	RUTS/PUDDLES	Some ruts on the west side		X					X	
OREST	6	VEGETATION	Grass on the edges and no vegetation on the driving surface.	X				Х	$\Box$		
	7	TREES	Non Observed	X				Х			
	8	CREST - OTHER	Non Observed	X				Х			
	9										
	10										
	11	TREES	Not Applicable	X				X			
	12	BERM SLIDE, SLOUGH	Repaired during the Fall of 2010.		Х			Х			
	13	SLOPE PROTECTION	Recyclex with Grass		X			Х			
	14	BERM SINKS	Non Observed	X				X			
	15	ANIMAL BURROWS	Non Observed	X				Х			
	16	ABUTMENT CONTACT	Good	X				X			
EMPANKMENT	17	EROSION	Two areas on the north side in the center. Improved from 2010.		Х						
EWIDANKWENT	18	VEGETATION	Grass anchored by Recyclex		X			X			
UPSTREAM EMBANKMENT	19	TREES	Non Observed		Х			X			
	20	BERM BULGES	Non Observed	X				X			
	21	UPSTREAM - OTHER	Non Observed	X				X			
	22										
	23										
	24	WET AREAS, SEEPAGE	Non Observed	IX				XI	T		
	25	EST. SEEPAGE RATE	Non Observed	X				X			
	26	SEEPAGE DESCRIPTION	Non Observed	X				X			
	27	BERM SLIDE, SLOUGH	Non Observed	X				X			
	28	ABUTMENT CONTACT	Good	X				X			
	29	ANIMAL BURROWS	Non Observed	X				X			
DOWNSTREAM	30	EROSION	Some minor erosion on the NE side.		Х			X			
EMBANKMENT	31	UNUSUAL MOVEMENT	Non Observed	X				X			
	32	VEGETATION	Grass	X				X			
	33	TREES	Non Observed								
	34	DOWNSTREAM - OTHER	Non Observed								
	35										
	36										
	37										
Comments and Ph	ioto	Information:									

#### CRITICAL IMPOUNDMENT INSPECTION CHECKLIST

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 $\left( \begin{array}{c} \end{array} \right)$ 

Impoundment: Sou	th Bo	ottom Ash Pond	Inspection Date: January 17, 2011	We	athe	r: Cl	oudy	and	Coc	ol 🗌			
Inspected By: Mark	Kell	v	Last Inspection Date: February 1, 2010										
		Condition Current Observations			Chang Last Ins		om tion	Action					
Area	Item		Current Observations	Similar	Improved	Deteriorated	unknown	ок	Monitor	Repair			
	1	SURFACE CRACKING	Non Observed		Τ			X					
	2	ANIMAL BURROWS	Non Observed	X				X					
	3	CREST SINKS	Non Observed	X				X					
	4	HORIZONTAL ALIGNMENT	Good	X				X					
CREST	5	RUTS/PUDDLES	Some ruts on the west side		Х					X			
ONEOT	6	VEGETATION	Grass on the edges and no vegetation on the driving surface.	X				X					
	7	TREES	Non Observed	X				X					
	8	CREST - OTHER	Non Observed	X				X					
	9												
	10												
	11	TREES	Not Applicable	X				X	X				
	12	BERM SLIDE, SLOUGH	Repaired during the Fall of 2010.		X			X					
	13	SLOPE PROTECTION	Recyclex with Grass		X			X					
	14	BERM SINKS	Non Observed					X					
	15	ANIMAL BURROWS	Non Observed	X				X					
UPSTREAM	16	ABUTMENT CONTACT	Good	X				X					
EMBANKMENT	17	EROSION	Non Observed					X					
	18	VEGETATION	Grass anchored by Recyclex		X			X					
	19	TREES	Non Observed		X			X					
	20	BERM BULGES	Non Observed	X				X					
	21	UPSTREAM - OTHER	Bean stalks to be remove don the south side near the center.			X				X			
	22												
	23												
	24	WET AREAS, SEEPAGE	Non Observed	1 <u>X</u>				X					
	25	EST. SEEPAGE RATE	Non Observed	1 <u>X</u>				<u>X</u>					
	26	SEEPAGE DESCRIPTION	Non Observed	1 <del>X</del>				쉯	$\rightarrow$				
	27	BERM SLIDE, SLOUGH	Non Observed	ΙČ				싃	$\rightarrow$	$\neg$			
	28	ABUTMENT CONTACT	Good	ΗĞ				싃					
DOWNSTREAM	29	ANIMAL BURROWS	Non Observed	IŶ			I	쓳					
EMBANKMENT	30		Some minor erosion on the NE side.	1÷				쓳					
	31			НŶ				쓳					
	32		Grass	₩÷				쓳					
	33		Non Observed			V		ᄊ		$\overline{}$			
	34	DOWNSTREAM - UTHER	Extensive noy damage on the south side. Revegetate.	╢─┤		-			-+	<u> </u>			
	30			╟─┤			łł		$\rightarrow$				
	37			╢─┤			-	+					
Comments and Ph	oto	Information:			1			L	<u> </u>				
		<u>mornauvit</u>											

#### **CRITICAL IMPOUNDMENT INSPECTION CHECKLIST**

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### **APPENDIX B**

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### **PHOTO LOCATOR PLANS**



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DESIGNATES CAMERA VIEW LOCATION OF PHOTO.NUMBER IN BOX IS NUMBER OF PHOTO. BIG BROWN SES SK-1 "BOTTOM ASH POND" INSPECTION DATE: JANUARY 17, 2011

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## APPENDIX A

## **Document 4**

## Big Brown Critical Impoundment Inspection Report, HDR Engineering Inc., April 19, 2012

HDR



FOR INFORMATION ONLY

### Big Brown Steam Electric Station Freestone County, Texas

### **Critical Impoundment Inspection Report**

April 19, 2012

HDR Project No. 179596 Texas P.E. Firm Registration No. F-754

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Crest
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Oil Skimmer:
Inactive Solid Waste Disposal Area

Attachment 1: Inspection Checklists

Attachment 2: Inspection Maps

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The last recorded rainfall event occurred over a three day period. The plant recorded 0.55 inches of rain on February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 0.62 inches on February 3<sup>rd</sup> and 0.02 inches on February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2012. On the date of inspection, the ground was moist and there were areas of standing water present.

#### North and South Bottom Ash Pond:

The North and South Bottom Ash Ponds are adjacent to each other and can be found approximately 1,000 feet northwest of the plant. The clay-lined surface impoundments are used to hold metal-cleaning wastes, waste water treatment wastes, and bottom ash contained in transporter sluice water. The rectangular impoundments measure approximately 1,400 feet by 264 feet at the crest. Each pond surface area is 9.6 acres and is surrounded by an earth embankment that serves as a containment dike. The slope of the perimeter dike is approximately 2.5 Horizontal: 1 Vertical. The depth of the impoundments from the top of the dike to the top of the clay liner is approximately 22 feet. Each pond will hold about 44 million gallons when the fluid level is at the top of the dike or about 38 million gallons (or 114 acre-feet) with 3 feet of freeboard.

Each impoundment is constructed with a compacted clay liner 3 feet thick underlying the bottom and interior dike slopes. The clay liner does not extend beyond the centerline of the crest.

The top of the dike surrounding the ponds is approximately 14 to 21 feet above surrounding grade. Surface runoff does not enter the impoundments.

On the day of the inspection, the water elevation in the North Bottom Ash Pond was approximately 346.9 feet. The South Bottom Ash Pond had an elevation of 346.6 feet.

#### Crest

In general, the crest of the impoundment was in good condition (Figures 2 and 3).



Figure 2: Crest of North Impoundment



Figure 3: Crest of North Impoundment

MODERATE ITEM: The crest of the impoundment had areas with rutting from vehicular traffic (Figures 4 and 5) in localized areas around the entire pond.

Recommendation 1: Repair damaged areas and grade to drain.

Recommendation 2: Discourage vehicular traffic from driving on impoundment crests after storm events.



Figure 4: Crest Rutting North Pond



Figure 5: Crest Rutting South Pond

#### <u>Upstream Embankment</u>

MODERATE ITEM: Wave erosion was observed on the North Pond (Figure 6). Erosion matting was installed to mitigate the erosion along the upstream embankments of both ponds. The matting installed in the North Pond did not appear to be functioning as well as the matting installed on the South Pond (Figure 7). The North Pond was emptied in 2011 and repairs were made to the liner and protective cover. The South Pond was emptied and repaired in 2009.

Recommendation 1: Repair upstream embankment on North Pond using the same erosion matting installed on the South Pond.

Recommendation 2: Continue to monitor erosion to protective cover over liner and repair as needed with riprap.



Figure 6: North Pond Embankment (Note geotextile separation and erosion).



Figure 7: South Pond Upstream Embankment (Note geotextile well placed and functioning as intended)

MODERATE ITEM: The South Bottom Ash Pond had isolated areas of cattails and other vegetation growing on the upstream embankment (Figures: 8 and 9).

Recommendation 1: Remove cattails and undesirable vegetation (bushes) from upstream embankment. Repair surface areas disturbed by removal of large vegetation (bushes).



**Figure 8: Cattails South Pond** 



Figure 9: Bush Growing South Pond Embankment

#### Downstream Embankment

In general, the downstream side of the impoundment embankment was in good condition (Figures 10 and 11).



Figure 10: Downstream Embankment North Pond



Figure 11: Downstream Embankment South Pond

MODERATE ITEM: Animal burrows were found in the downstream embankment of both ponds (Figures 12 and 13).

Recommendation 1: Backfill burrows with compacted cohesive soil and reestablish vegetation.

Recommendation 2: Continue to monitor for burrow reestablishment or erosion to restored areas.



Figure 12: North Pond Animal Burrow



Figure 13: South Pond Animal Burrows

MODERATE ITEM: Bare areas were found at a couple of areas along the downstream face of the embankment around both ponds (Figures: 14 and 15).

Recommendation 1: Reseed and reestablish vegetation in these bare areas.

Recommendation 2: Continue to monitor for additional erosion after re-vegetation.



Figure 14: Bare Area North Pond



Figure 15: Bare Area South Pond

MODERATE ITEM: Water is ponding at the toe of both ponds in isolated areas (Figures 16 and 17). It is assumed the water was from recent storm activities, but this could also represent seepage from the impoundment.

Recommendation 1: Continue to monitor these low areas, especially during dry (i.e., rain free) periods to determine if this is storm water or water migrating from the ponds.

Recommendation 2: Provide compacted cohesive fill soil and grade to eliminate the ponding areas.



Figure 16: North Pond Standing Water at Toe



Figure 17: South Pond Standing Water at Toe

#### **Other Observations**

MODERATE ITEM: The North Bottom Ash Pond pipe rack has wave erosion at the foundation (Figures 18 and 19).

Recommendation 1: Backfill bare erosion gullies with compacted cohesive soil and reestablish vegetation.

Recommendation 2: Place riprap in areas of concentrated flow.

Recommendation 3: Continue to monitor areas after repairs for additional erosion.



Figure 18: North Pond Pipe Rack Erosion



Figure 19: North Pond Pipe Rack Erosion

MODERATE ITEM: The pipe rack at the South Bottom Ash Pond has erosion gullies undercutting the slab foundation (Figures 20 and 21).

Recommendation 1: Backfill bare erosion gullies with compacted cohesive soil, grade and reestablish vegetation. Place and pack grave or grout in voids beneath concrete slab.

Recommendation 2: Place riprap or stone in areas of concentrated flow.

Recommendation 3: Continue to monitor areas after repairs for additional erosion.

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### **ATTACHMENT 1**

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**Inspection Checklists** 

#### IMPOUNDMENT INSPECTION CHECKLIST

Impoundment: North	and So	outh Bottom Ash Ponds	Inspection Date:2/8/12	Wea	ther: S	unny							
Inspected By: Mark	Kally V	Vill Steen and Dave Voot	Last Inspection Date:										
Inspected By, Mark		Will Steen and Dave Vogi		Change From Last Inspection					Action				
Element	Item	Component	Current Observations	Similar	Improved	Deteriorated	Unknown		OK	Critical	Moderate	Minor	Monitor
	1	Surface Cracking		X					X				
	2	Animal Burrows		X					X				
	3	Crest Sinks		X					X				
	4	Horizontal Alignment		X				223	X		[		
Crest	5	Ruts/Puddles		Х							X		
	6	Vegetation		Х					x				
	7	Trees		X					X				
	8	Piezometer Readings					X						
	9	Piezometer Condition					X						
				in anti-su	1.8			1359	12130			1993	
	10	Cap Erosion		X					X				
	11	Cap Vegetation/Trees		X					X				
	12	Berm Slide, Slough		X					X				
	13	Slope Protection		X					X				
Unstream	14	Berm Sinks		X					X				
Embankment and	15	Animal Burrows		X					X				
Cap Area	16	Abutment Contact		X					X				
	17	Erosion		X							X		
	18	Vegetation						· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·			X		
	19	Trees							X				
	20	Drains		X					X				
× • • • • • • • •	21	Berm Bulges		X					X				
	22	Wet America		-		-			-				
	22	Fatimated Samage Rate							N/		X		
	23	Sonnace Description	New										
	24	Tee Droin Status						Silver's					
	25	Parm Slide/Slough							X				
	20	Abutmont Context					-						
Downstream	20	Animal Burrows					-		X		v		
Embankment	20	Erosion						10 ST					
	30	Liusioli Unusual Movement							v		_X		
	31	Vegetation						1.4.1					
	32	Trees							$\frac{\Lambda}{V}$				
	32	Piezometer Reading					$\mathbf{v}$		^				
	34	Piezometer Condition		+			$\frac{\Lambda}{V}$						
Comments and Photo	Inform	ation:	I				л						

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### **ATTACHMENT 2**

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**Inspection Maps** 



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## APPENDIX A

## **Document 5**

### NPDES Permit No. TN 85003-0-02


TPDES PERMIT NO. <u>WQ0001309000</u> [For TCEQ office use only -EPA I.D. No. <u>TX0030180</u>]

TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY P. O. Box 13087 Austin, Texas 78711-3087 This is a renewal of TCEQ Permit No. <u>WQ0001309000</u>, issued on December 28, 2004.

#### PERMIT TO DISCHARGE WASTES

under provisions of Section 402 of the Clean Water Act and Chapter 26 of the Texas Water Code

TXU Big Brown Company LP (Owner) and TXU Generation Company LP (Operator)

whose mailing address is

c/o Water Programs Coordinator Environmental Services Energy Plaza 1601 Bryan Street Dallas, Texas 75201-3411

is authorized to treat and discharge wastes from the Big Brown Steam Electric Station, a steam power generating facility (SIC 4911)

located on the north bank of Fairfield Lake on Farm-to-Market Road 2570, approximately 11 miles northeast of the City of Fairfield, Freestone County, Texas

to Fairfield Lake; thence to Big Brown Creek; thence to Tehuacana Creek; thence to the Trinity River Above Lake Livingston in Segment No. 0804 of the Trinity River Basin

only according to effluent limitations, monitoring requirements and other conditions set forth in this permit, as well as the rules of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), the laws of the State of Texas, and other orders of the TCEQ. The issuance of this permit does not grant to the permittee the right to use private or public property for conveyance of wastewater along the discharge route described in this permit. This includes, but is not limited to, property belonging to any individual, partnership, corporation or other entity. Neither does this permit authorize any invasion of personal rights nor any violation of federal, state, or local laws or regulations. It is the responsibility of the permittee to acquire property rights as may be necessary to use the discharge route.

This permit shall expire at midnight on February 1, 2012.

## ISSUED DATE: APR 18 2007

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For the Commission

# APPENDIX A

# **Document 6**

# FLOW CHART, Big Brown Steam Electric Station



# APPENDIX B

# **Document** 7

# Dam Inspection Check List Lime and Ash Pond





Site Name:	Big Brown Steam Electric Station	Date:	September 26, 2012
Unit Name:	Bottom Ash Pond	Operator's Name:	Luminant
Unit I.D.:		Hazard Potential Classification:	High 🔄 Significant 🗌 Low 🔀
Inspector's Name:		Michael McLaren, P.E. and Jo	e Klein, P.E.

Check the appropriate box below. Provide comments when appropriate. If not applicable or not available, record "N/A". Any unusual conditions or construction practices that should be noted in the comments section. For large diked embankments, separate checklists may be used for different embankment areas. If separate forms are used, identify approximate area that the form applies to in comments.

			_		
	Yes	No		Yes	No
1. Frequency of Company's Dam Inspections?	Х		18. Sloughing or bulging on slopes?		Х
2. Pool elevation (operator records)?	347 ft		19. Major erosion or slope deterioration?		Х
3. Decant inlet elevation (operator records)?		N/A	20. Decant Pipes:		
4. Open channel spillway elevation (operator records)?		N/A	Is water entering inlet, but not exiting outlet?		N/A
5. Lowest dam crest elevation (operator records)?	350 ft		Is water exiting outlet, but not entering inlet?		N/A
6. If instrumentation is present, are readings recorded (operator records)?	X		Is water exiting outlet flowing clear?		N/A
7. Is the embankment currently under construction?		х	21. Seepage (specify location, if seepage carries fines, and approximate seepage rate below):		
8. Foundation preparation (remove vegetation, stumps, topsoil in area where embankment fill will be placed)?		INA	From underdrain?		Х
<ol> <li>Trees growing on embankment? (If so, indicate largest diameter below)</li> </ol>		x	At isolated points on embankment slopes?		Х
10. Cracks or scarps on crest?		Х	At natural hillside in the embankment area?		Х
11. Is there significant settlement along the crest?		Х	Over widespread areas?		Х
12. Are decant trashracks clear and in place?		N/A	From downstream foundation area?		Х
13. Depressions or sinkholes in tailings surface or whirlpool in the pool area?		х	"Boils" beneath stream or ponded water?		Х
14. Clogged spillways, groin or diversion ditches?		N/A	Around the outside of the decant pipe?		Х
15. Are spillway or ditch linings deteriorated?		N/A	22. Surface movements in valley bottom or on hillside?		Х
16. Are outlets of decant or underdrains blocked?		N/A	23. Water against downstream toe?		Х
17. Cracks or scarps on slopes?		x	24. Were Photos taken during the dam inspection?	x	

Major adverse changes in these items could cause instability and should be reported for further evaluation. Adverse conditions noted in these items should normally be described (extent, location, volume, etc.) in the space below and on the back of this sheet.

Issue #	Comments
1	Formal inspections conducted annually. Daily inspections conducted by plant staff and documented using checklist reports.
3, 4, 12, 14, 15, 16, 20	Bottom Ash Pond consists of two cells. Each cell has a suction pipe inlet on the opposite end from the sluice outlet. The suction pipe flows to a valve box used to recycle water to the plant. In abnormal conditions, the pipe flow can be rerouted to the process water pond for discharge to Fairfield Lake.
6	Piezometers at toe of embankment. Piezometers read semi-annually.
8	INA: Information Not Available



# **Coal Combustion Waste (CCW)**

## Impoundment Inspection

Impoundment	NPDES Per	mit WQ000	1309000	INSPECTO	<b>DR</b> Mike McLa	aren	
Date Septem Impoundment Name Bottom Big Bro Impoundment Company TXU Big EPA Region 6			ber 26, 2012 Ash Pond vn Steam Elect Brown Compa	ric Station ny, LP			
State Agency (Field Office) AddressTexas Commission on Environmen P.O. Box 13087 Austin, TX 78711Name of ImpoundmentBig Brown Steam Electric Station				Environmenta ric Station	l Quality		
(Report e	ach impoui	ndment on a s	eparate form u	nder the same	e Impoundment	NPDES Permit	number)
New		Update					
Is water or co	Is impo w currently	oundment curi / being pumpe	rently under co ed into the imp	onstruction? oundment?	Yes		No No No No No No No No No No No No No
IMPC		FUNCTION:	Receive and s	tore sluiced b	ottom ash		
Nearest Do	wnstream <sup>-</sup>	Town Name:	There are no t the Trinity Riv general area o	cowns downst er. There are of the plant sit	ream of the pla no towns along te.	nt location bet the Trinity Riv	ween it and er in the
Distance f	rom the im	poundment:	Trinity River is	s about 4 mile	s east of Big Bro	own Steam Ele	ctric Station
Location: Latitude	31	Degrees	49	Minutes	18.47	Seconds	N
Longitude	96	Degrees	03	Minutes	39.44	Seconds	w
	State	Texas		County	Freestone		
	Does a st	ate agency re	gulate this imp	oundment?	Yes		No
			If So Which Sta	ate Agency?	Texas Commis Quality	sion on Enviro	nmental



HAZARD POTENTIAL (In the event the impoundment should fail, the following would occur):

**LESS THAN LOW HAZARD POTENTIAL:** Failure or misoperation of the dam results in no probable loss of human life or economic or environmental losses.

LOW HAZARD POTENTIAL: Dams assigned the low hazard potential classification are those where failure or misoperation results in no probable loss of human life and low economic and/or environmental losses. Losses are principally limited to the owner's property.

**SIGNIFICANT HAZARD POTENTIAL:** Dams assigned the significant hazard potential classification are those dams where failure or misoperation results in no probable loss of human life but can cause economic loss, environmental damage, disruption of lifeline facilities, or can impact other concerns. Significant hazard potential classification dams are often located in predominantly rural or agricultural areas but could be located in areas with population and significant infrastructure.



**HIGH HAZARD POTENTIAL:** Dams assigned the high hazard potential classification are those where failure or misoperation will probably cause loss of human life.

## **DESCRIBE REASONING FOR HAZARD RATING CHOSEN:**

Based on the size and location of the Big Brown Steam Electric Station Bottom Ash Pond, there is no probable loss of life in the event of failure or misoperation. Economic and environmental losses are expected to be low and limited to the owner's property. The plant owner owns Fairfield Lake and most of the surrounding property. There is a State Park located on the upper end of Fairfield Lake. The park property is owned by Luminant and leased to the State for a nominal annual amount to provide public recreational access to the lake.



## **CONFIGURATION:**





## TYPE OF OUTLET (Mark all that apply)





water into the plant discharge canal.

# The Impoundment was Designed By Luminant

		Yes	No		
Has there ever been a failure a	at this site?		$\square$		
li	f So When?				
If So Please Describe :					
		Vaa	Ne		
lles there ever heer significan	•	res	INO		
Has there ever been significar	at this site?		$\square$		
It	f So When?				
If So Please Describe :					
				Yes	
Has there ever been any mea	sures undert	aken to			
monitor/lower Phreatic wat	er table level	s based			
on past s	eepages or b	reaches			
	at th	nis site?			
If so. which method (e	.g., piezomet	ers. gw			
	pump	ing,)?			
If Co Diagon Describe .					

No

 $\square$ 



#### ADDITIONAL INSPECTION QUESTIONS

Concerning the embankment foundation, was the embankment construction built over wet ash, slag, or other unsuitable materials? If there is no information just note that.

No formal documentation was available. However, it was reported that the Bottom Ash Pond was included in the original plant development. In the late 1980s and early 1990s both cells of the pond were upgraded. The upgrade included removal of stored ash, construction of a compacted clay liner and improvements at the suction line pipe inlets.

Observations during the site visit indicate the embankments were constructed on natural ground.

Did the dam assessor meet with, or have documentation from, the design Engineer-of-Record concerning the foundation preparation?

No documentation of original foundation preparation was provided.

From the site visit or from photographic documentation, was there evidence of prior releases, failures, or patchwork on the dikes?

Neither observations during the site visit, nor photographs in prior inspection reports provided to Dewberry indicate prior releases, failures or patchwork on the dikes.



Coal Combustion Dam Inspection Checklist Form	US Environmental Protection Agency
Site Name:	Date:
Unit Name:	Operator's Name:
Unit I.D.:	Hazard Potential Classification: High Significant
Inspector's Name:	
Inspection Issue # Comm	ents

# **APPENDIX C**

# **Document 8**

# Ash Pond Slope Stability Investigation Report, Golder Associates Inc., November 2012 (Revised December 2012)



# ASH POND SLOPE STABILITY INVESTIGATION REPORT

**Big Brown Power Plant Freestone County, Texas** 

Submitted To: Luminant – Systems Engineering Energy Plaza, Floor 27 1601 Bryan Street Dallas, Texas 75201

Submitted By: Golder Associates Inc. 500 Century Plaza Drive, Suite 190 Houston, TX 77073 USA Texas Registration Number: F-2578



November 2012 (Revised December 2012)



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- Appendix B Laboratory Test Summary Sheets
- Appendix C Laboratory Test Results
- Appendix D Slope Stability Calculations
- Appendix E Important Information About This Geotechnical Report





#### **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

This revised report supersedes original report submitted to Luminant on November 21, 2012.

#### **1.1 Project Description**

Luminant Power (Luminant) operates the Big Brown Power Plant, a lignite-fueled power plant near Fairfield, Freestone County, Texas. As part of regulatory compliance, the existing ash ponds are being characterized for slope stability. The ash ponds are located northwest of the power plant. The ash ponds consist of two adjacent ponds that share a dike that separates the two ponds. Each ash pond encompasses an area of approximately 8 acres.

Golder Associates Inc. (Golder) has been contracted by Luminant to perform a geotechnical site investigation at the facility and analyze the ash pond slope stability. This report presents the findings of the field investigation, boring logs, laboratory test results, a description of the subsurface soil conditions, and results of the slope stability analyses.

#### **1.2 Scope of the Investigation**

The scope of this investigation included:

- Drilling and sampling of six (6) geotechnical soil borings,
- Laboratory testing of representative soil samples,
- Characterization of subsurface conditions, and
- Slope stability analyses.

The subsurface investigation was performed on October 15, 16, and 17, 2012.

#### 1.3 Coordinate System and Unit System

The soils boring locations and elevations were estimated by Golder using existing topographic maps and aerial imagery. We have reported coordinates with reference to latitude and longitude with WGS84 datum. All elevations are referenced to mean sea level (msl).

This report is presented using U.S. customary (or English) units.



#### 2.0 SUBSURFACE INVESTIGATION

Golder performed a subsurface investigation that included six (6) soil borings. Two (2) borings were drilled to a depth of 30 feet below ground surface (bgs) and four (4) borings were drilled to a depth of 50 feet bgs. Table 1 provides the boring coordinates and elevations. The soils boring locations and elevations were estimated by Golder using existing topographic maps and aerial imagery. Boring locations are shown on Figure 1.

Boring Number	Latitude	Longitude	Elevation (ft-msl)	Boring Depth (ft)
BH-1	31°49'21"N	96° 3'41"W	350	50
BH-2	31°49'18"N	96° 3'48"W	350	50
BH-3	31°49'14"N	96° 3'54"W	350	30
BH-4	31°49'10"N	96° 3'51"W	350	30
BH-5	31°49'13"N	96° 3'44"W	350	50
BH-6	31°49 <sup>'</sup> 17"N	96° 3'37"W	350	50

#### TABLE 1. BORING COORDINATES

#### 2.1 Soil Boring Procedures

The borings were drilled by Van and Sons Drilling Service, Inc. using an all terrain truck-mounted drilling rig and rotary drilling methods with solid stem augers. Soil samples were collected at 2.5-foot intervals within the top 10 feet of the boring and at 5-foot intervals below 10 feet. The boring logs from the site investigation are included as Appendix A.

Disturbed soil samples were obtained in sand using an ASTM standard split spoon sampler, i.e., 2-inch outer diameter and 1-3/8- inch inner diameter. Standard Penetration Tests (SPT) were conducted during sampling. Sampling and testing were carried out in general agreement with the guidelines in ASTM D1586.

SPTs involve counting the number of blows of a 140 lb hammer dropping 30 inches needed for the sampler to penetrate three successive 6-inch increments into the soil. The reported N value is the number of blows required to penetrate the second and third 6-inch intervals, with units of blows/12 inches. In some hard clays and very dense sands, 50 blows are insufficient to advance the sampler 6 inches and penetration "refusal" was encountered. In this case the N value is not obtained and the incomplete penetration is recorded. This is registered in the boring logs as, for example, 50/5 in., i.e. 50 blows with only 5 inches of penetration.

![](_page_88_Picture_12.jpeg)

![](_page_89_Picture_0.jpeg)

Select samples were obtained in clayey soils using steel Shelby tubes. Shelby tubes were 30-inch long and 3-inch outer diameter (OD). The inside diameter was 2.87 inch giving an area ratio of 9% ( $C_a = 100 \times (OD^2 - ID^2)/ID^2$ ). These Shelby tubes have a cutting edge diameter ( $D_e$ ) of 2.85 in., thus an inside clearance ratio ( $C_i = 100 \times (ID-D_e)/D_e$ ) equal to 0.7%. The recovery ratio (length recovered/length pushed) is typically variable and dependent on the soil stiffness, with higher recovery values generally obtained in softer clays. The recovery ratio is reported in the individual boring logs.

All borings were sampled by a Golder field engineer and the soils were described using a modified version of the Unified Soil Classification System (ASTM D 2487). The soil description included a density or consistency qualifier, color, structural characteristics when evident, composition with major component in capital letters, and minor characteristics.

After visual classification, recovered samples from SPTs were placed in plastic bags to preserve the natural moisture content. After retrieval and visual soil identification of each Shelby tube sample, a pocket penetrometer test was performed at the bottom end of the sample. Shelby tubes pushed in stiff to hard clayey soils were extruded in the field and the recovered samples were placed in plastic storage tubes and plastic bags to preserve the moisture content. All samples were labeled and transported back to the Golder's Houston office for laboratory soils testing.

Boring logs were prepared from the field logs using the software package gINT v. 8.1.021. The boring logs are provided in Appendix A.

Following the completion of the ash pond soil borings, the boreholes were backfilled with bentonite grout and finished with cement to the surface.

#### 2.2 Laboratory Testing

Laboratory testing was performed on selected samples, in accordance with commonly accepted methods and practices. Undisturbed and disturbed soil samples were tested to determine water content, Atterberg limits, grain size distribution, and shear strength. Water content determination was performed in accordance with ASTM D2216; Atterberg limits were determined in accordance with ASTM D4318; and grain size distribution was performed in accordance with ASTM D422. Shear strength testing consisted of unconsolidated-undrained (UU) and consolidated-undrained (CU) triaxial compression tests in general accordance with ASTM D2850 and D4767, respectively. Laboratory data summary sheets are presented in Appendix B. Laboratory test result sheets are presented in Appendix C.

#### 2.3 Subsurface Conditions

The soils encountered in the borings generally consist of very stiff to hard sandy clays and compact to very dense clayey sands. The subsurface stratigraphy generally consists of clayey or silty sand with

![](_page_89_Picture_11.jpeg)

![](_page_90_Picture_0.jpeg)

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interspersed layers of sandy clay and lean clay. The sandy clay and lean clay layers range in thickness from approximately 5 to 17 feet. A thin (less than 5 feet thick) layer of loose to compact clayey sand was encountered in BH-1, BH-2 and BH-5 at a depth of approximately 44 feet bgs. All of the borings except BH-3 and BH-6 were terminated in a stratum of compact to very dense silty sand. BH-3 and BH-6 were terminated in layers of dense to very dense sand.

Groundwater was encountered in 2 of the 6 borings. Groundwater elevations encountered during drilling ranged from 320 to 332 ft-msl. Our analyses were conducted assuming groundwater elevation at each cross section based on the boring closest to that cross section.

![](_page_90_Picture_7.jpeg)

#### 3.0 STABILITY ANALYSES

Slope stability analyses were performed using the commercial slope stability software program, SLIDE Version 6.0. The site topography and geometry used in the analyses were determined from site survey and design drawings provided by Luminant.

The typical containment dike section has an interior (wet side) slope of 2.5 horizontal to 1 vertical (2.5H:1V) and a minimum exterior (dry side) slope of 2H:1V. The crest elevation of the containment dike is at approximately 350 ft-msl. The ponds are lined with 3 feet of compacted clay. The top of liner elevation on the pond floors is approximately 328 ft-msl. The most critical slope geometry was identified along the west sideslope, consisting of an approximately 24-foot high, 1.7H:1V slope.

Stability analyses were performed for four (4) separate slope sections to assess the various soil conditions and slope geometries around the ponds; analysis locations are shown on Figure 2. Stability analyses considered "empty pond" and "full pond" conditions.

A rapid drawdown scenario was analyzed for one full pond condition at each section. The analysis was completed on the drained or undrained section with the lower factor of safety in the full condition. The analysis was completed using the B-bar method to simulate the effects of rapid drawdown in a low permeability material such as the sandy clays and clayey sands encountered at Big Brown. The initial water level was modeled as the full condition and the final water level was modeled at the pond floor, representing a final condition after drawdown where the pond is empty.

The most critical slope geometry was identified along the east sideslope. The effect of pseudo-static earthquake loading was also analyzed at this location. The plant is not located in a seismic zone (Reference: Figure 6 of EM 1110-2-1902, "Stability of Earth and Rock-Fill Dams", U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 1970), so a nominal seismic coefficient of 0.01g was therefore used in the earthquake loading analysis.

The soils encountered in the borings are not susceptible to liquefaction.

#### 3.1 Soil Properties

For each slope section, a conservative, generalized subsurface stratigraphy was developed based on soil boring information and laboratory soil testing results from the borings conducted as part of this investigation. The soil properties assumed for the slope sections are provided in Table 2.

![](_page_91_Picture_14.jpeg)

![](_page_92_Picture_0.jpeg)

#### **TABLE 2. SOIL MATERIAL PROPERTIES**

		Moist	Saturated	Undrained Soil P	roperties	Drained Soil Properties		
Soil Material	Description	Unit U Weight We (Ib/ft <sup>3</sup> ) (It	Unit Weight (lb/ft <sup>3</sup> )	Undrained Shear Strength, s <sub>u</sub> (Ib/ft <sup>2</sup> )	Friction Angle, φ (°)	Cohesion , c' (Ib/ft <sup>2</sup> )	Friction Angle, φ' (°)	
I	Sandy Clay/ Clayey Sand	127	132	1500	0	1000	14	
II	Clean Sand	127	132	0	29	0	29	

#### 3.2 Slope Stability Results

Slope stability analyses were performed for both short-term and long-term conditions using undrained and drained soil properties, respectively. The results of the analyses are provided in Table 3. SLIDE output files are included in Appendix D. A factor of safety of 1.5 is typically considered adequate for permanent slopes. The minimum calculated factor of safety from our analyses is 2.5 (Case 2) for normal loading conditions. Therefore, our analyses indicate that the slopes are stable. Additionally, slope stability analyses for rapid drawdown and earthquake conditions have factors of safety greater than 1.5 as well.

## TABLE 3. SLOPE STABILITY FACTORS OF SAFETY

Case	Description	Factor of Safety
1	East sideslope; empty pond; short-term (undrained) conditions	2.6
2	East sideslope; empty pond; long-term (drained) conditions	2.5
3	East sideslope; full pond; short-term (undrained) conditions	5.7
4	East sideslope; full pond; long-term (drained) conditions	5.9
5	East sideslope; empty pond; long-term (drained) conditions; seismic	2.4
6	East sideslope; rapid drawdown	2.6
7	North sideslope; empty pond; short-term (undrained) conditions	3.3
8	North sideslope; empty pond; long-term (drained) conditions	3.2
9	North sideslope; full pond; short-term (undrained) conditions	6.3
10	North sideslope; full pond; long-term (drained) conditions	6.6
11	North sideslope; rapid drawdown	3.1
12	Northeast sideslope; empty pond; short-term (undrained) conditions	3.5
13	Northeast sideslope; empty pond; long-term (drained) conditions	3.6
14	Northeast sideslope; full pond; short-term (undrained) conditions	3.5
15	Northeast sideslope; full pond; long-term (drained) conditions	3.6
16	Northeast sideslope; rapid drawdown	3.6
17	West sideslope; empty pond; short-term (undrained) conditions	5.5
18	West sideslope; empty pond; long-term (drained) conditions	4.4
19	West sideslope; full pond; short-term (undrained) conditions	5.4
20	West sideslope; full pond; long-term (drained) conditions	4.4
21	West sideslope; rapid drawdown	4.4

![](_page_92_Picture_10.jpeg)

![](_page_93_Picture_0.jpeg)

#### 4.0 IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Attention is drawn to the document - "Important Information About Your Geotechnical Engineering Report", which is included in Appendix E of this report. This document has been prepared by the ASFE (Professional Firms Practicing in the Geosciences), of which Golder is a member. The statements presented in this document are intended to advise owners of what their realistic expectations of this report should be, and to present recommendations on how to minimize the risks associated with the groundworks for this project. The document is not intended to reduce the level of responsibility accepted by Golder, but rather to ensure that all parties who may rely on this report are aware of the responsibilities each assumes in so doing.

![](_page_93_Picture_7.jpeg)

![](_page_94_Picture_0.jpeg)

December 2012

#### 5.0 CLOSING

Golder appreciates the opportunity to assist Luminant with this project. If you have any questions, or require further assistance from Golder, please contact the undersigned at (281) 821-6868.

Very truly yours, GOLDER ASSOCIATES INC.

Chis Mustel

P. Chris Marshall, P.E. Senior Project Engineer

Charles F. Rickert, P.E. Associate

![](_page_94_Picture_11.jpeg)

![](_page_95_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_95_Figure_1.jpeg)

#### **BORING LOCATION PLAN**

Golder				FIG-1
			SCALE	NTS
(	PROJECT No.	123-94128	FILE No.	12394128A001

J:\\_2012\123-94128 - Luminant\\_A - Ash Pond Slope Stability112394128A002.dwg | Layout: ANSI\_A\_FIGURE\_LANDSCAPE | Modified: HRolwing 11/21/2012 8:11 AM | Plotted: HRolwing 11/21/2012

![](_page_96_Picture_1.jpeg)

earth	REFERENCES / SPEC IMAGE SOURCE: GOOGLE EARTH	PRO	<u>ATIO</u> . 2010	NS D	
all 2667 ft 🕻					
REV DATE	#### REVISION DESCRIPTION	HPR DES	VJE CADD	HPR CHK	PCN RVV
PROJECT ASH PC	LUMINANT - BIG BROWN ND SLOPE STABILITY INVESTIGA FREESTONE COUNTY, TEXA	TIO S	n Ri	EPO	R

## **ANALYSIS LOCATIONS**

TITLE

(	PROJECT No.	123-94128	FILE No.	12394128A002
			SCALE	NTS
Golder				FIG-2

LEGEND

ANALYSIS LOCATION

APPENDIX A BORING LOGS

	Ø	Gold	500 Century Plaza Drive, Suite 190 Houston, Texas 77073 Telephone: (281) 821-6868 Fax: (281) 821-6870				B	BOR	ING	5 NUN		<b>R B</b> 5E 1	<b>H-1</b> OF 2			
	CLIEN	NT <u>Lu</u> Iect N	IMINANT	PROJEC PROJEC	T NAME	<u>Pond</u>	<u>Slope Sta</u> Big Brown	bility Plant								
	DATE	STAR	TED 10/15/12 COMPLETED 10/15/12	GROUNI	D ELEVA	TION			HOLE SIZEinches							
	DRILL		CONTRACTOR Van & Sons Drilling Service	GROUNI			LS:									
	DRILI	ING N	IETHOD Mud Rotary	AT			ING									
				۸۳ ۲۸												
	NOTE	:e					20.00 ft									
.GPJ	NOTE	.s		- <u>+</u> Ar		%	20.00 11	Z	۲. ۲	▲ S	PT N V	ALUE	<b>A</b>			
194128BIGBROWN	o DEPTH (ft)	GRAPHIC LOG	MATERIAL DESCRIPTION		SAMPLE TY NUMBER	RECOVERY (RQD)	BLOW COUNTS (N VALUE	POCKET PE (tsf)	DRY UNIT V (pcf)	20 PL ⊢ 20 □ FINE 20	40 40 35 CON 40	60 60 TENT 60	L 80 (%) □ 80			
NVESTIGATION			(SC) CLAYEY SAND, medium to fine, well graded, light b and low plasticity clay, moist	prown,	SH 1	78		3.0		•						
<b>ROWN FIELD I</b>			sandy clay lenses, dry at 3.5'		SH 2	-		4.9		•		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·				
ABILITYABIG E			no clay lenses at 6.0'		SH 3	78		4.5		•		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·				
<b>NT POND SLOPE ST</b>	 _ <u>10</u> 		(CL) LEAN CLAY, low plasticity, with sand, brown-orange cohesive, dry	н <b>,</b>	SH 4	-		4.5		•						
ERS\123-94128 LUMINA	 _ <u>15</u> 		(SC) CLAYEY SAND, medium to fine, well graded, browr orange, and low plasticity clay, moist	n to	SH 5	65				•						
12012 PROJECT FOLD	 _ 20		$ar{oldsymbol{arphi}}$		SH 6	79		1.5		•						
11/20/12 15:09 - Р	  25		gray at 23.0'		SH 7	83				•		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·				
NT STD US LAB.GDT	   30		(CL) LEAN CLAY, low plasticity, some fine to medium sa to brown, cohesive, moist	nd, gray	SH 8	79				<b>⊢●</b>	-4					
<b>3EOTECH BH PLOTS - GI</b>	   35				SH 9	83				•						

CLIENT Lu	minant	PROJECT NAME Pond Slope Stability							
PROJECT N	UMBER _ 123-94128 I	PROJECT	LOCAT		Big Brown	Plant			
GE DEPTH (ft) GRAPHIC LOG	MATERIAL DESCRIPTION		SAMPLE TYPE NUMBER	RECOVERY % (RQD)	BLOW COUNTS (N VALUE)	POCKET PEN. (tsf)	DRY UNIT WT. (pcf)	▲ SPT N VALUE ▲ 20 40 60 80 PL MC LL 40 60 80 □ FINES CONTENT (%) □ 20 40 60 80	
	(CL) LEAN CLAY, low plasticity, some fine to medium sand to brown, cohesive, moist <i>(continued)</i>	, gray	1						
 - 40  	(SC) CLAYEY SAND, mealum to fine, well graded, with low plasticity clay, brown, wet		SS 10	83	12-13-14 (27)				
 45  			/ SS 11	100	5-5-3 (8)			•	
			SS	100	8-9-11			<b>AO</b>	

	Ø	Gold	500 Century Plaza Drive, Suite 190 Houston, Texas 77073 Telephone: (281) 821-6868 Fax: (281) 821-6860				E	BOR	ING	S NUN	IBE PA	, <b>R B</b> .GE 1	OF 2
	CLIEN	NT <u>Lu</u> IECT N	minant IUMBER 123-94128	PROJEC	T NAME	Pond	<u>l Slope Sta</u> Big Brown	bility Plant					
	DATE	STAR	TED 10/16/12 COMPLETED 10/16/12	GROUND ELEVATION HOLE SIZE inches									
	DRILI	LING C	ONTRACTOR Van & Sons Drilling Service	GROUND WATER LEVELS:									
	DRILI		IETHOD Mud Rotary										
				Δ7			ING						
	NOTE	S		ΔF									
	NOTE							1	1				
.GPJ					H .	%	<u> </u>	z	5	▲ S	PT N	VALUI	E 🔺
NMC	Η	UH O			Z Z Z Z Z Z Z	Ц К С	NTS UE	He C	> ⊨⊆	20 PL	40 M	<u>60</u> C	<u>80</u> LL
<b>GBR</b>	ΞĘ	LO	MATERIAL DESCRIPTION		JME	NOVE NOVE	VAL	(tsf	Чg	20	40	60	-  80
28BI(		ß			MA	Ŭ Ŭ	"ŭZ	8	Ϋ́		S COI		<u>с (%)</u> П
\941	0				S N	L CC		<u>م</u>		20	40	60	80
TION			(CL) LEAN CLAY, low plasticity, with sand and gravel, de	creasing									
-IGA			coarse content with depth, dry, gray and brown		SH	E0		4.5				:	
/EST					1	58		4.5					
Ń												····:	
FIEL					SH	75		4.5		•		····:	
NM	5				2							····÷	
BRC													
BIG			(SC) CLAYEY SAND, medium to fine, well graded, with i plasticity clay, brown, moist	W	SH 3	100		4.5		•			
LITY			P										
TAB					SП					-		-	:
PES	10	117			4	50		3.0		•			
SLO													
										· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		:	
NTP													
AINA												· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
3 LUI					SH 5	67		4.5		•••••	••••	····:	
9412	_ 15 _											····	
123-												· · · · · · · · · · · ·	
ERS													
OLD		I)											
CTF			decreasing clay with depth at 18.0'		SH	44		2 25		: 			
SOJE	20				6								
12 PF													
/ 20										:		:	
- Б												:	
15:0					SН					· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·			
0/12					7	94		4.5		•••••			
11/2	_ 20 _												
DT -												····	
AB.G												····	
US L			aray and orange at 28 0'									· · · · · · · · ·	
STD			gray and orange at 20.0		SH	88		4.5		· · · · · •			
INT	30	U.S.			0								
- S													
PL01													
BHI		J.J.											
ECH					SH			0.5					
GEOI	35				9	90		2.5				:	

LIENT Lumina	ant	PROJECT NAM	E Pone	d Slope Sta	bility	
ROJECT NUME	<b>3ER</b> _123-94128	PROJECT LOC	ation _	Big Brown	Plant	
(ff) (ff) LOG LOG	MATERIAL DESCRIPTION	SAMPLE TYPE NUMBER	RECOVERY % (RQD)	BLOW COUNTS (N VALUE)	POCKET PEN. (tsf)	$\begin{array}{c} \begin{array}{c} \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \$
	(SC) CLAYEY SAND, medium to fine, well graded, with lo plasticity clay, brown, moist <i>(continued)</i>	w				
40 -	wet at 38.5'		S 56	15-18-20 (38)	-	
45			S 1 100	3-3-5 (8)		<b>A</b> •
			S 100	18-18-17	-	

	Ð	Gold	500 Century Plaza Drive, Suite 190 Houston, Texas 77073 Telephone: (281) 821-6868 Fax: (281) 821-6870				B	BOR	ING	B NUMBER BH-3 PAGE 1 OF 1	
	CLIEN	NT Lu	minant PR	ROJEC	T NAME	Pond	Slope Sta	bilitv			
			UMBER 123-94128	PROJECT LOCATION Big Brown Plant							
		STAR	TED 10/15/12 COMPLETED 10/15/12 GE	GROUND FLEVATION HOLE SIZE inches							
			ONTRACTOR Van & Sons Drilling Service								
	NOTE	S		AF						1	
I\94128BIGBROWN.GPJ	o DEPTH (ft)	GRAPHIC LOG	MATERIAL DESCRIPTION		SAMPLE TYPE NUMBER	RECOVERY % (RQD)	BLOW COUNTS (N VALUE)	POCKET PEN. (tsf)	DRY UNIT WT. (pcf)	▲ SPT N VALUE ▲ 20 40 60 80 PL MC LL 20 40 60 80 □ FINES CONTENT (%) □ 20 40 60 80	
NOIL		7.]-)  - - -	(SC) CLAYEY SAND, medium to fine, some gravel, brown, m	oist							
<b>IVESTIGA</b>					SH 1	56		2.5		•	
WN FIELD IN	 		increasing clay content and clay lenses at 3.5'		SH 2	67		4.5		•	
ITY/BIG BRO			(CL) LEAN CLAY, low plasticity, and well graded, medium to sand, light brown, moist	fine	SH 3	72		4.5		•	
SLOPE STABILI	 _ 10				SH 4	89		4.5		•	
NANT POND	 										
94128 LUMIN	15				SH 5	81		4.5		•	
DLDERS/123-9											
PROJECT FC			(SC) CLAYEY SAND, medium to fine, brown, moist		SH 6	75		4.0		•	
9 - P:\_2012 F										·····	
1/20/12 15:09	25		(SP) SAND, poorly graded, medium, tan, moist		SS 7	89	13-18-18 (36)	-		•	
AB.GDT - 1											
VT STD US L	  30				SS 8	100	13-24-30 (54)			•	
Ш С			Bottom of borehole at 30.0 feet.			•		•	•	•	
EOTECH BH PLOTS											

CLIENT L	uminant		PROJECT N	AME Po	nd Slope Sta	ability					
PROJECT	NUMBER 123-94128		PROJECT LOCATION Big Brown Plant								
DATE STA	RTED 10/16/12	<b>COMPLETED</b> 10/16/12	GROUND FLEVATION HOLE SIZE inches								
DRILLING	CONTRACTOR Van &	Sons Drilling Service	GROUND W/	ATER LEV	/ELS:						
	METHOD Mud Rotary	<u> </u>			ILLING						
	<b>Y</b> HR	CHECKED BY PCM			UING						
NOTES	<u></u>				G						
				J %	ອ ອີ	л. И	WT.	▲ SPT N VALUE 20 40 60			
O DEPTH (ft) GRAPHI LOG	n l	ATERIAL DESCRIPTION	SAMPI F T			POCKET P (tsf)	DRY UNIT (pcf)	PL MC L 20 40 60 FINES CONTENT 20 40 60	_L † 80 (%) □ 80		
	(SC) CLAYEY SAN plasticity clay, mois	ID, medium to fine, well graded, and t	low	SH 1 56		4.5		•			
	dry at 3.5'			SH 2 67		4.5		•			
	moist at 6.0'			SH 3 72		4.5		•			
 <u>10</u> 				SH 100	)	4.0		•			
	(CL) LEAN CLAY, brown, moist, cohe	low plasticity, with medium to fine sa sive	nd, gray -	SH 83		1.5		···· • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •			
	(SC) CLAYEY SAN plasticity clay, mois	ID, medium to fine, well graded, and st	low	SH 6 54	_	1.5		•			
  <u>25</u>				SH 7 58	_	2		•			
  30				SH 92		1.0		•			
	В	ottom of borehole at 30.0 feet.									

(	Ð	Gold	Houston, Texas 77073 Telephone: (281) 821-6868 Fax: (281) 821-6870				E	OR	ING	PAGE 1 OF 2		
		יין דע	minant D	ROJECT		Pond	Slone Sta	bility				
			IIIMBER 123-94128	ROJECT			Rig Brown	Plant				
	ATE											
		: 51 AR	G COMPLETED 1/16/12 G	_ GROUND ELEVATION HOLE SIZE _ inches								
	RILI	LING C	ONTRACTOR Van & Sons Drilling Service G	ROUND	WATER		LS:					
D	RILI		IETHOD Mud Rotary	AT	TIME OF	DRIL	LING					
L	OGO	GED B	HR     CHECKED BY PCM	AT	END OF	DRILL	.ING					
N	OTE	S		AF	FER DRI	LLING						
N94128BIGBROWN.GPJ	0 (ff)	GRAPHIC LOG	MATERIAL DESCRIPTION		SAMPLE TYPE NUMBER	RECOVERY % (RQD)	BLOW COUNTS (N VALUE)	POCKET PEN. (tsf)	DRY UNIT WT. (pcf)	▲ SPT N VALUE ▲ 20 40 60 80 PL MC LL 40 60 80 □ FINES CONTENT (%) □ 20 40 60 80		
NOIT			(CL) SANDY LEAN CLAY, low plasticity, medium to fine, we	11								
IN ESTIGA	-		graded, brown and orange, conesive, moist		SH 1	78		4.5		•		
	- 5		trace gravel, red and gray at 3.5'		SH 2	78		4.5		•		
BIG BROW	_				SH	100		2 25		<b>⊢●</b> −−−− <b>↓</b>		
	-		(SC) CLAYEY SAND, medium to fine, well graded, some low plasticity clay, orange, cohesive, moist	V	3							
	- 10		<ul> <li>(CL) SANDY LEAN CLAY, low plasticity, medium to fine, well graded, brown and orange, cohesive, moist</li> <li>(SC) CLAYEY SAND, medium to fine, well graded, some low plasticity clay, gray to brown, non-cohesive, moist</li> </ul>	₩	SH 4	89		0.75				
	-		(CL) SANDY LEAN CLAY, low plasticity, medium to fine, we graded, gray and brown, cohesive, moist	11	sн	75		3.25				
DLDERS/123-94128	<u>15</u> - -				5							
2012 PROJECT FC	- 20 -		(SW) WELL GRADED SAND, medium to fine, with low plast clay lenses, orange, non-cohesive, moist	icity	SH 6	52		3.0		•		
T - 11/20/12 15:09 -	- - 25		(CH) SANDY FAT CLAY, high plasticity, medium to fine, wel graded, gray, cohesive, moist	l	SH 7	83		2.75		· · · • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •		
T STD US LAB.GE	- - 30		(CL) SANDY LEAN CLAY, low plasticity, medium to fine, we graded, gray, cohesive, moist orange and gray at 28.0'	II	SH 8	73		4.5		•		
OTECH BH PLOTS - GIN	- - -		(SC) CLAYEY SAND, medium to fine, well graded, some low plasticity clay, gray and orange, cohesive, moist	V	SH	67		4.25				

CLIEN	NT Lur	ninant	PROJECT NAM	E Pon	d Slope Sta	bility				
PROJ	ECT N	JMBER 123-94128	PROJECT LOCA	PROJECT LOCATION Big Brown Plant						
H (#) 35	GRAPHIC LOG	MATERIAL DESCRIPTION	SAMPLE TYPE NUMBER	RECOVERY % (RQD)	BLOW COUNTS (N VALUE)	POCKET PEN. (tsf)	DRY UNIT WT. (pcf)	▲ SPT N VALUE ▲ 20 40 60 80 PL MC LL 20 40 60 80 □ FINES CONTENT (%) 20 40 60 80		
- - 40 -		plasticity clay, gray and orange, cohesive, moist (	(continued)	3 100	13-15-16 (31)	-				
- - <u>45</u> -		wet at 43.5'		<sup>3</sup> 100	4-5-5 (10)	-				
-			s:	6	10-10-12 (22)			•		
50	1-1-1	Bottom of borehole at 50 0 feet	/ \		. ,					

(	Ð	Gold	Houston, Texas 77073 Telephone: (281) 821-6868 Fax: (281) 821-6870				B	OR	ING	PAGE 1 OF 2		
c	LIEN	NT Lu	minant	PROJEC	T NAME	Pond	Slope Sta	bility				
Р	ROJ	ECT N	UMBER _123-94128	PROJECT LOCATION Big Brown Plant								
D	ATE	STAR	TED 10/16/12 COMPLETED 10/16/12	GROUND ELEVATION HOLE SIZE inches								
	RILL	ING C	ONTRACTOR Van & Sons Drilling Service	GROUND WATER LEVELS:								
				ΔΤ			ING					
				AT								
		:s		AF		LLING		1	1			
N94128BIGBROWN.GPJ		GRAPHIC LOG	MATERIAL DESCRIPTION		SAMPLE TYPE NUMBER	RECOVERY % (RQD)	BLOW COUNTS (N VALUE)	POCKET PEN. (tsf)	DRY UNIT WT. (pcf)	▲ SPT N VALUE ▲ 20 40 60 80 PL MC LL 20 40 60 80 □ FINES CONTENT (%) □ 20 40 60 80		
D INVESTIGATION	-		(SC) CLAYEY SAND, medium to fine, well graded, some to plasticity clay, brown, cohesive, moist	w	SH 1	28				•		
	5_		and low plasticity clay at 3.5'		SH 2	67		4.5		•		
	-		(CL) SANDY LEAN CLAY, low plasticity, some medium to sand, orange, wet (SW) WELL GRADED SAND, medium to fine, gray, dry	fine	SH 3	72		0.0		•		
SLOPE STAE	10		(SC) CLAYEY SAND, medium to fine, well graded, and low plasticity clay, orange, dry, cohesive	1	SH 4	61		4.5		•		
DLDERS\123-94128 LUMINANT POND S	- - - <u>15</u> -		(CL) LEAN CLAY, low plasticity, some medium to fine sand orange, moist, cohesive	J,	SH 5	54		4.5				
	- 20 - -		(SC) CLAYEY SAND, medium to fine, well graded, and low plasticity clay, gray, moist, cohesive	1	SS 6	54	5-7-10 (17)	-				
.GDT - 11/20/12 15:10	- 25 -		(CL) SANDY LEAN CLAY, low plasticity, increasing sand w depth, gray, cohesive, moist	<i>i</i> ith	SH 7	100		2.0		•		
I PLOTS - GINT STD US LAB	- - <u>30</u> -		(SC) CLAYEY SAND, medium to fine, well graded, and low plasticity clay, gray and orange, possible some lignite (blac moist, cohesive	/ k),	SH 8	88		3.5		•		
GEOTECH BH	- - <u>35</u>		no lignite at 33.0'		SH 9	69		3.5		└── <b>F●</b> ── <b>1</b>		

ROLECT NUMBER 123-9123 PROJECT LOCATION Big Brown Plant		IT Lun	ninant F	PROJECT NAME Pond Slope Stability						
Image: Section of the section of t	ROJ	ECT NU	JMBER 123-94128 F	PROJECT LOCATION Big Brown Plant						
(SC) CLAYEY SAND, medium to fine, vell graded, and low plasticity molect, cohesive (continued) (SW) WELL GRADED SAND, medium to fine, trace low plasticity clay lenses, gray, non-cohesive, moist 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0,	(1) (1) 35	GRAPHIC LOG	MATERIAL DESCRIPTION		SAMPLE IYPE NUMBER	RECOVERY % (RQD)	BLOW COUNTS (N VALUE)	POCKET PEN. (tsf)	DRY UNIT WT. (pcf)	▲ SPT N VALUE ▲ 20 40 60 80 PL MC LL 20 40 60 80 □ FINES CONTENT (%) 20 40 60 80
10     1     1     1     0.0       15     1     1     0.0     0.0       10     1     1     1     0.0       10     1     1     1     0.0   Bottom of borehole at 50.0 feet.			<ul> <li>(SC) CLAYEY SAND, medium to fine, well graded, and low plasticity clay, gray and orange, possible some lignite (black moist, cohesive <i>(continued)</i></li> <li>(SW) WELL GRADED SAND, medium to fine, trace low pla clay lenses, gray, non-cohesive, moist</li> </ul>	k), asticity	SH 10	60		0.0		
to the state of th	<u>40                                     </u>		orange, clay nodules at 43.0'		SH					
bottom of borehole at 50.0 feet.	45 _ -				11	50		0.0		
Bottom of borehole at 50.0 feet.	-		with stiff, gray, clay nodules and lenses at 48.0'		SH 12	46		0.0		•
	50	21-11-1	Bottom of borehole at 50.0 feet							
APPENDIX B LABORATORY TEST SUMMARY SHEETS



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## SUMMARY OF LABORATORY RESULTS

PAGE 1 OF 2

CLIENT Luminant PROJECT NAME Pond Slope Stability PROJECT LOCATION Big Brown Plant PROJECT NUMBER 123-94128 Atterberg Limits Unit Weight Natural Moisture Dry Additional Plasticity Liquid Plastic %<#200 Class-Permeability Sample ID Density Depth Moisture Content Lab Limit Limit Index Sieve ification (cm/sec) (%) (%) (psf) Testing BH-1 1 19.3 BH-1 4 11.9 BH-1 6 8.8 BH-1 9 13.6 BH-1 13 19.1 BH-1 18 15.5 BH-1 23 15.4 BH-1 28 19.9 33 13 20 BH-1 33 16.0 BH-1 39 22.9 BH-1 44 25.6 BH-1 49 27.6 BH-2 20.1 1 BH-2 4 13.3 BH-2 6 16.2 BH-2 9 9.9 BH-2 13 18.3 BH-2 18 17.9 BH-2 23 15.0 BH-2 28 17.2 34 17 17 BH-2 33 22.5 BH-2 39 24.2 BH-2 44 26.1 BH-2 49 25.6 BH-3 1 12.2 BH-3 4 17.3 BH-3 6 16.7 BH-3 9 18.6 BH-3 13 18.7 BH-3 18 14.1 BH-3 24 8.5 BH-3 29 7.0 17 BH-4 1 9.9 4 BH-4 11.4 BH-4 6 10.7 BH-4 9 22.0 BH-4 13 20.1 39 16 23 BH-4 18 15.7 BH-4 23 14.3 28 BH-4 20.3 BH-5 1

2012 PROJECT FOLDERS/123-94128 LUMINANT POND SLOPE STABILITY/BIG BROWN FIELD

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LAB SUMMARY.

17.8

INVESTIGATION/94128BIGBROWN.GP



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## SUMMARY OF LABORATORY RESULTS

PAGE 2 OF 2

PROJECT NAME Pond Slope Stability CLIENT Luminant PROJECT NUMBER 123-94128 PROJECT LOCATION Big Brown Plant Atterberg Limits Unit Weight Natural Moisture Additional Dry Plasticity Liquid Plastic %<#200 Class-Permeability Sample ID Depth Moisture Content Density Lab Limit Limit Index Sieve ification (cm/sec) (%) (%) (psf) Testing BH-5 4 20.3 28 6 15 BH-5 20.0 43 BH-5 9 20.8 BH-5 13 18.3 BH-5 18 14.2 BH-5 23 60 14 46 19.6 BH-5 28 15.7 BH-5 33 14.8 BH-5 39 19.6 44 BH-5 22.5 BH-5 49 20.9 BH-6 1 16.5 BH-6 4 11.9 BH-6 6 28.2 BH-6 9 12.3 BH-6 49 16 33 13 17.7 BH-6 19 20.6 BH-6 23 19.3 BH-6 28 13.3 BH-6 33 21.9 44 14 30 BH-6 38 21.5 69 BH-6 43 26.0 BH-6 48 31.1

LAB SUMMARY - COA - GINT STD US LAB. GDT - 11/15/12 17:09 - PY\_2012 PROJECT FOLDERS/123-94128 LUMINANT POND SLOPE STABILITY/BIG BROWN FIELD INVESTIGATION/94128BIGBROWN GPJ

## APPENDIX C LABORATORY TEST RESULTS

## ATTERBERG LIMIT RESULTS



**GRAIN SIZE ANALYSIS** 



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## **GRAIN SIZE DISTRIBUTION**

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## **GRAIN SIZE DISTRIBUTION**

CLIENT Luminant PROJECT NAME Pond Slope Stability PROJECT NUMBER 123-94128 PROJECT LOCATION Big Brown Plant U.S. SIEVE NUMBERS | 810 14 16 20 30 40 50 60 100 140 200 U.S. SIEVE OPENING IN INCHES HYDROMETER 1 3/4 1/23/8 3 6 6 4 3 2 1.5 100 • 95 90 85 P:\_2012 PROJECT FOLDERS/123-94128 LUMINANT POND SLOPE STABILITY/BIG BROWN FIELD INVESTIGATION/94128BIGBROWN.GPJ 80 75 70 65 PERCENT FINER BY WEIGHT 60 55 50 45 40 35 30 25 20 15 10 5 0 100 10 0.1 0.01 0.001 1 **GRAIN SIZE IN MILLIMETERS** GRAVEL SAND COBBLES SILT OR CLAY fine medium coarse coarse fine BOREHOLE DEPTH PL ΡI Classification LL Сс Cu • BH-6 38 BOREHOLE DEPTH D100 D60 D30 D10 %Gravel %Sand %Silt %Clay  $\bullet$ BH-6 38 9.5 0.1 30.6 69.4

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## ISOTROPICALLY CONSOLIDATED UNDRAINED TRIAXIAL TEST (ICU)



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## APPENDIX D SLOPE STABILITY ANALYSES









Page 1 of 1


































APPENDIX E IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT THIS GEOTECHNICAL REPORT

### Important Information About Your Geotechnical Engineering Report

Subsurface problems are a principal cause of construction delays, cost overruns, claims, and disputes. The following information is provided to help you manage your risks.

### **Geotechnical Services Are Performed for Specific Purposes, Persons, and Projects**

Geotechnical engineers structure their services to meet the specific needs of their clients. A geotechnical engineering study conducted for a civil engineer may not fulfill the needs of a construction contractor or even another civil engineer. Because each geotechnical engineering study is unique, each geotechnical engineering report is unique, prepared solely for the client. *No one except you* should rely on your geotechnical engineering report without first conferring with the geotechnical engineer who prepared it. *And no one - not even you -* should apply the report for any purpose or project except the one originally contemplated.

### A Geotechnical Engineering Report Is Based on A Unique Set of Project-Specific Factors

Geotechnical engineers consider a number of unique, Project-specific factors when establishing the scope of a study. Typical factors include the client's goals, objectives, and risk management preferences; the general nature of the structure involved, its size, and configuration; the location of the structure on the site; and other planned or existing site improvements, such as access roads, parking lots, and underground utilities. Unless the geotechnical engineer who conducted the study specifically indicates otherwise, *do not rely on a geotechnical engineering report that was:* 

- not prepared for you,
- not prepared for your project.
- not prepared for the specific site explored, or
- completed before important project changes were made.

Typical changes that can erode the reliability of an existing geotechnical engineering report include those that affect:

- the function of the proposed structure, as when it's changed from a parking garage to an office building, or from a light industrial plant to a refrigerated warehouse,
- elevation, configuration, location, orientation, or weight of the proposed structure,
- composition of the design team, or
- project ownership.

As a general rule, always inform your geotechnical engineer of project changes-even minor ones-and request an assessment of their impact. *Geotechnical engineers cannot accept responsibility or liability for problems that occur because their reports do not consider developments of which they were not informed.* 

### **Subsurface Conditions Can Change**

A geotechnical engineering report is based on conditions that existed at the time the study was performed. *Do not rely on a geotechnical engineering report* whose adequacy may have been affected by: the passage of time; by man-made events, such as construction on or adjacent to the site; or by natural events, such as floods, earthquakes, or groundwater fluctuations. *Always* contact the geotechnical engineer before applying the report to determine if it is still reliable. A minor amount of additional testing or analysis could prevent major problems.

### **Most Geotechnical Findings Are Professional Opinions**

Site exploration identifies subsurface conditions only at those points where subsurface tests are conducted or samples are taken. Geotechnical engineers review field and laboratory data and then apply their professional judgment to render an *opinion* about subsurface conditions throughout the site. Actual sub-surface conditions may differ - sometimes significantly - from those indicated in your report. Retaining the geotechnical engineer who developed your report to provide construction observation is the most effective method of managing the risks associated with unanticipated conditions

### A Report's Recommendations Are *Not* Final

Do not over-rely on the construction recommendations included in your report. Those *recommendations are not final,* because geotechnical engineers develop them principally from judgment and opinion. Geotechnical engineers can finalize their recommendations only by observing actual subsurface conditions revealed during construction. *The geotechnical engineer who developed your report cannot assume responsibility or liability* for the report's recommendations if that engineer does not perform construction observation.

### A Geotechnical Engineering Report Is Subject To Misinterpretation

Other design team members' misinterpretation of geotechnical engineering reports has resulted in costly problems. Lower that risk by having your geotechnical engineer confer with appropriate members of the design team after submitting the report. Also retain your geotechnical engineer to review pertinent elements of the design team's plans and specifications. Contractors can also misinterpret a geotechnical engineering report. Reduce that risk by having your geotechnical engineer participate in prebid and preconstruction conferences, and by providing construction observation.

### **Do Not Redraw the Engineer's Logs**

Geotechnical engineers prepare final boring and testing logs based upon their interpretation of field logs and laboratory data. To prevent errors or omissions, the logs included in a geotechnical engineering report should never be redrawn for inclusion in architectural or other design drawings. Only photo graphic or electronic reproduction is acceptable, *but recognize that separating logs from the report can elevate risk.* 

### **Give Contractors a Complete Report and Guidance**

Some owners and design professionals mistakenly believe they can make contractors liable for unanticipated subsurface conditions by limiting what they provide for bid preparation. To help prevent costly problems, give contractors the complete geotechnical engineering report, but preface it with a clearly written letter of transmittal. In that letter, advise contractors that the report was not prepared for purposes of bid development and that the report's accuracy is limited; encourage them to confer with the geotechnical engineer who prepared the report (a modest fee may be required) and/or to conduct additional study to obtain the specific types of information they need or prefer. A brand conference can also be valuable. *Be sure contractors have sufficient time* to perform additional study. Only then might you be in a position to give contractors the best information available to you, while requiring them to at least share some of the financial responsibilities stemming from unanticipated conditions.

### **Read Responsibility Provisions Closely**

Some clients, design professionals, and contractors do not recognize that geotechnical engineering is far less exact than other engineering disciplines. This lack of understanding has created unrealistic expectations that have led to disappointments, claims, and disputes. To help reduce such risks, geotechnical engineers commonly include a variety of explanatory provisions in their reports. Sometimes labeled "limitations", many of these provisions indicate where geotechnical engineers responsibilities begin and end, to help others recognize their own responsibilities and risks. Read these provisions closely. Ask questions. Your geotechnical engineer should respond fully and frankly.

### **Geoenvironmental Concerns Are Not Covered**

The equipment, techniques, and personnel used to perform a geoenvironmental study differ significantly from those used to perform a geotechnical study. For that reason, a geotechnical engineering report does not usually relate any geoenvironmental findings, conclusions, or recommendations: e.g., about the likelihood of encountering underground storage tanks or regulated contaminants. *Unanticipated environmental problems have led to numerous project failures*. If you have not yet obtained your own geoenvironmental information, ask your geotechnical consultant for risk management guidance. *Do not rely on an environmental report prepared for someone else.* 

### **Rely on Your Geotechnical Engineer for Additional Assistance**

Membership in ASFE exposes geotechnical engineers to a wide army of risk management techniques that can be of genuine benefit for everyone involved with a construction project. Confer with your ASFE-member geotechnical engineer for more information.



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