

City of Independence

POWER & LIGHT DEPARTMENT
21500 E. TRUMAN ROAD • P.O. BOX 1019 • INDEPENDENCE, MISSOURI 64051-0519
www.ci.independence.mo.us

(816) 325-7500
FAX (816) 325-7470



December 16, 2015

Sara Parker Pauley
Department Director
Missouri Department of Natural Resources

Re: City of Independence Power and Light
Blue Valley Power Station – Inactive CCR Surface Impoundments
Notice of Intent to Initiate Closure

Dear Ms. Parker Pauley,

The City of Independence Power & Light (IPL) Department, in response to the Federal Coal Combustion Residuals (CCR) Rule, 40 CFR Part 257 Subpart D, is notifying you of the pending closure construction of three CCR surface impoundments at 21500 E. Truman Road, Independence, Missouri 64056 (i.e., Bottom Ash Pond, South Fly Ash Pond and North Fly Ash Pond). These CCR surface impoundments are inactive CCR surface impoundments as defined by the Rule as they ceased accepting CCR prior to October 14, 2015.

The three impoundments encompass approximately 41 acres and will be closed in accordance with Paragraph 257(b)(1) of the Rule. Closure construction is planned to begin in June of 2016 and anticipated to be completed by December 2016. SCS believes this timeline to be technically feasible and the inactive CCR surface impoundments will be closed prior to the April 17, 2018 deadline under Section 257.100(b). Enclosed is the 4 page closure narrative including the CCR Rule required certifications.

Sincerely,


Leon Daggett.
IPL Director

Enclosure

**City of Independence - Independence Power & Light
Blue Valley Power Station (BVPS)**

**Coal Combustion Residual (CCR) Inactive Surface Impoundment
Notice of Intent to Initiate Closure
For Three Ash Impoundments
And Closure Narrative**

Background

The Blue Valley Power Station is owned and operated by City of Independence, Missouri. Three inactive CCR impoundments are present on the BVPS property and occupy approximately 41 acres of the site. Two fly ash impoundments are the North Fly Ash Pond (17 acres) and the South Fly Ash Pond (15 acres), and the third impoundment is the Bottom Ash Pond (9 acres). Under the CCR Rules, inactive CCR surface impoundment means a CCR surface impoundment that no longer receives CCR on or after October 14, 2015 and still contains both CCR and liquids on or after October 14, 2015. Both the North and South Fly Ash Ponds were taken out of service in 2008 and 1991, respectively, and ceased accepting ash prior to October 14, 2015. The Bottom Ash Pond also ceased accepting bottom ash prior to October 14, 2015 to meet the Final Rules for Disposal of Coal Combustion Residuals from Electric Utilities for closing as an inactive impoundment [40 CFR Parts 257 and 261, Hazardous and Solid Waste Management System; Disposal of Coal Combustion Residuals from Electric Utilities], (April 17, 2015)(CCR Rules).

The three ash storage ponds are located north of the power plant. The South Fly Ash Pond and the Bottom Ash Pond are located adjacent to each other immediately north of the plant. The South Fly Ash Pond is the easterly pond and the Bottom Ash Pond is the westerly pond. The North Fly Ash Pond is located north of both the South Fly Ash Pond and Bottom Ash Pond.

Intent to Initiate Closure

It is the intent of Independence Power & Light to close the three ash ponds at the BVPS property as “inactive surface impoundments” in accordance with the EPA’s Coal Combustion Residuals rule 40 CFR Parts 257.100. Under the CCR Rules, inactive CCR surface impoundment means a CCR surface impoundment that no longer receives CCR on or after October 14, 2015 and still contains both CCR and liquids on or after October 14, 2015. The Bottom Ash Pond ceased accepting CCR prior to October 14, 2015 regulatory deadline and the North and South Fly Ash Ponds were taken out of service in 2008 and 1991, respectively. CCR was moved from the Bottom Ash pond and disposed in the North Fly Ash pond prior to the October 14, 2015 regulatory deadline. No CCR was moved into or between the impoundments after the October 14, 2015 regulatory deadline.

Intent to Initiate Closure – North Fly Ash Pond

It is the intent of Independence Power & Light to close the North Fly Ash Pond at the BVPS property as an “*inactive surface impoundment*” in accordance with the EPA’s Coal Combustion Residuals rule 40 CFR Parts 257.100. Under the CCR Rules, Inactive CCR surface impoundment means a CCR surface impoundment that no longer receives CCR on or after October 14, 2015 and still contains both CCR and liquids on or after October 14, 2015. The North Fly Ash Pond will be closed in accordance with Paragraph 257.100(b)(1), “Closure by leaving CCR in place”.

Intent to Initiate Closure – South Fly Ash Pond

It is the intent of Independence Power & Light to close the South Fly Ash Pond at the BVPS property as an “*inactive surface impoundment*” in accordance with the EPA’s Coal Combustion Residuals rule 40 CFR Parts 257.100. Under the CCR Rules, Inactive CCR surface impoundment means a CCR surface impoundment that no longer receives CCR on or after October 14, 2015 and still contains both CCR and liquids on or after October 14, 2015. The South Fly Ash Pond will be closed in accordance with Paragraph 257.100(b)(1), “Closure by leaving CCR in place”.

Intent to Initiate Closure – Bottom Ash Pond

It is the intent of Independence Power & Light to close the Bottom Ash Pond at the BVPS property as an “*inactive surface impoundment*” in accordance with the EPA’s Coal Combustion Residuals rule 40 CFR Parts 257.100. Under the CCR Rules, Inactive CCR surface impoundment means a CCR surface impoundment that no longer receives CCR on or after October 14, 2015 and still contains both CCR and liquids on or after October 14, 2015. The majority of the Bottom Ash Pond will be closed in accordance with Paragraph 257.100(b)(1), “Closure by leaving CCR in place”. The south portion of the Bottom Ash Pond will be closed in accordance with Part 257.100(b)(5), “Closure through removal of CCR” to create an area for a storm water detention basin for the plant. The CCR excavated as part of the “Clean Closure” will be used as fill in the north end of the Bottom Ash Pond.

Closure Requirements

Section 257.100(b)(1) describes the closure requirements for inactive surface impoundments. Paragraph 257.100(b) provides that an owner of an inactive CCR surface impoundment that completes closure and meets all of the requirements below, no later than 36 months after the publication of the CCR Rules in the Federal Register, is exempt from all other requirements of this subpart. If the owner elects to close the CCR surface impoundment by leaving CCR in place, the owner must ensure that, at a minimum, the CCR unit is closed in a manner that will:

- Control, minimize or eliminate, to the maximum extent feasible, post-closure infiltration of liquids into the waste and releases of CCR, leachate, or contaminated run-off to the ground or surface waters or to the atmosphere;
- Preclude the probability of future impoundment of water, sediment, or slurry;
- Include measures that provide for major slope stability to prevent the sloughing or movement of the final cover system during closure and throughout the post-closure care period; and
- Minimize the need for further maintenance of the CCR unit.

The owner must meet the requirements below prior to installing the final cover system:

- Free liquids must be eliminated by removing liquid wastes or solidifying the remaining wastes and waste residues.
- Remaining wastes must be stabilized sufficient to support the final cover system.

The owner must install a final cover system that is designed to minimize infiltration and erosion, and at a minimum, meets the requirements below.

- The permeability of the final cover system must be less than or equal to the permeability of any bottom liner system or natural subsoils present, or a permeability no greater than 1×10^{-5} centimeters/second, whichever is less.
- The infiltration of liquids through the CCR unit must be minimized by the use of an infiltration layer that contains a minimum of 18 inches of earthen material.
- The erosion of the final cover system must be minimized by the use of an erosion layer that contains a minimum of 6 inches of earthen material that is capable of sustaining native plant growth.
- The disruption of the integrity of the final cover system must be minimized through a design that accommodates settling and subsidence.

The CCR Rules also allow an alternative cover system that will be permitted as part of the closure design. The alternative cover must meet the requirements described below:

- The final cover system must include an infiltration layer that achieves an equivalent reduction of infiltration as that of the prescriptive design.
- The final cover system must include an erosion layer that provides equivalent protection from wind or water erosion as that of the prescriptive design.
- The disruption of the integrity of the final cover system must be minimized through a design that accommodates settling and subsidence.

Closure Narrative

Independence Power & Light will close the three impoundments by utilizing either the prescriptive final cover system outlined above or an alternative final cover system design. The final cover design selected for use will be determined prior to the commencement of construction. Regardless of the cover design, the impoundments will be drained of free liquids that may exist at the time of closure. The ash in the three impoundments will be graded to promote surface water drainage from the top of the final cover system, via sheet flow off of the impoundment cover, toward the existing drainage ditch system. Access to the closed impoundments, as well as the existing utility poles located in the impoundment areas, will be maintained.

Closure Schedule

Independence Power & Light and its Professional Engineering Consultant are in the process of developing the closure plan and construction documents with the intent to contract for closure of the CCR impoundments during calendar year 2016. Additional details regarding the CCR Closure Plan will be posted on the City's CCR website when completed.

The tentative schedule for completing the closure design and construction is as follows.

Closure Design: July 2015 – December 2015


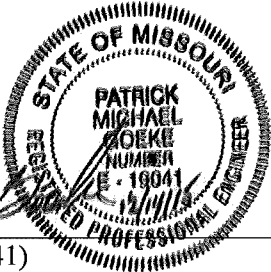
Construction Bidding and Contracting Process: January 2016 – June 2016

Closure Construction: June 2016 – December 2016



Closure of the three ponds will be completed prior to April 17, 2018, thus meeting the 36-month timeframe of Paragraph 257.100(b) of the CCR Rules.

Professional Engineer Certifications

I hereby certify, as a Professional Engineer in the State of Missouri, that the design of the final cover system for the two fly ash ponds and one bottom ash pond located at the Blue Valley Power Station will meet the requirements of Paragraph 257.100(b)(1) or (2) of the CCR Rules.



Patrick M. Goeke, P.E. (E-19041)

I hereby certify, as a Professional Engineer in the State of Missouri, that the closure of the two fly ash ponds and one bottom ash pond located at the Blue Valley Power Station is technically feasible and can be completed within the timeframe outlined in Paragraph 257.100(b) of the CCR Rules – i.e., completion by April 17, 2018.



Patrick M. Goeke, P.E. (E-19041)