

McElroy's Run CCB Landfill Coal Combustion Residual 2023 Annual Report

Pleasants County, West Virginia

January 2024

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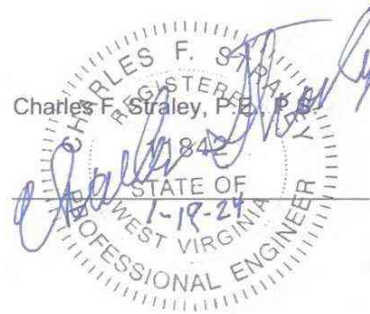
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Certification/Statement of Professional Opinion

The Annual Inspection of Pleasants Power Station Landfill (Project) was performed by GAI Consultants, Inc. (GAI) on Thursday, October 26, 2023. The Inspection was based on certain information identified in Section 3.0 that GAI has relied on but not independently verified, and the visual observations made by GAI personnel at the Project site during specific site visits. Therefore, this Certification/Statement of Professional Opinion is limited to the information available to GAI at the time the Inspection was performed. On the basis of, and subject to the foregoing, it is my professional opinion, as a Professional Engineer licensed in the State of West Virginia, that the Inspection has been performed in accordance with good and accepted engineering practices as exercised by other engineers practicing in the same discipline(s), under similar circumstances, and at the time and in the same locale. It is my professional opinion that the Annual Inspection Report was prepared consistent with the requirements of the United States Environmental Protection Agency's "Standards for the Disposal of Coal Combustion Residuals in Landfills and Surface Impoundments," published in the Federal Register on April 17, 2015 with an effective date of October 19, 2015.

The use of the words "certification" and/or "certify" in this document shall be interpreted and construed as a Statement of Professional Opinion and is not and shall not to be interpreted or construed as a guarantee, warranty or legal opinion.

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1.0 Purpose

Pursuant to Coal Combustion Residuals (CCRs) Rule 40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 257.84, each CCR unit is to have an annual inspection and report prepared by a qualified professional engineer. The inspection is to include:

- ▶ A review of available information regarding the status and condition of the CCR unit, including, but not limited to, files in the operating record; and
- ▶ A visual inspection of the CCR unit to identify signs of distress or malfunction of the CCR unit.

The Inspection Report is to include:

- ▶ Any changes in geometry of the structure since the previous annual inspection;
- ▶ The approximate volume of CCR contained in the unit at the time of the inspection;
- ▶ Any appearances of an actual or potential structural weakness of the CCR unit, in addition to any existing conditions that are disrupting or have the potential to disrupt the operation and safety of the CCR unit; and
- ▶ Any other change(s) which may have affected the stability or operation of the CCR unit since the previous annual inspection.

2.0 Introduction

The McElroy's Run Landfill is owned and operated by the FirstEnergy Corporation and is permitted to accept CCRs from the Pleasants Power Station (Station) which is a coal-fired electric generating station located near the community of Willow Island in Pleasants County, West Virginia (WV). The Station is owned by Omnis Fuel Technologies and consists of two generating units, which are capable of producing 1,300 megawatts of electricity. CCRs generated at the Station are placed in the McElroy's Run Disposal Facility (Landfill), which is located approximately one-half mile east-southeast of the Station. Approximately 99 percent of the wastes placed in the disposal area consist of bottom ash, fly ash, and synthetic gypsum. Miscellaneous wastes from operations and maintenance activities at the Station account for the remaining one percent. Prior to deactivation, CCRs from the Willow Island Power Station were also placed in the facility.

According to the WV Department of Environmental Protection (WVDEP), the Landfill is a Class F CCR Solid Waste Disposal Facility. The approximate center of the Landfill is located at coordinates 39° 21' 55" north latitude and 81° 16' 42" west longitude. Approximately 112 acres are currently permitted for Landfill operations under WVDEP Permit No. WV 0079171. The Landfill is divided into three stages, referred to as Stage I, II, and III. Sub-stages 1A through 1G, 2A, and 2B have been constructed, with Stages 2A and 2B currently receiving CCR material.

Two permanent sedimentation ponds located near the toe of the Landfill footprint are designed to receive leachate and surface runoff flows from the Landfill. Sedimentation Pond No. 1 is the primary sedimentation pond to receive flows. Sedimentation Pond No. 2 is a redundant structure that is used when Pond No.1 is out of service for cleaning and/or maintenance. Principal spillways of both ponds discharge to the sediment pond effluent return sump where water is pumped to the McElroy's Impoundment and ultimately discharged to the Ohio River via a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permitted outfall.

The leachate detection/groundwater underdrain system for the Landfill consists of perforated pipes in gravel trenches. Water collected in this system is conveyed to Sedimentation Pond No. 1 to undergo settling treatment.

Drainage from the haul road/access road flows into collection channels that direct water to Sedimentation Pond No. 1 for treatment.

3.0 Information Review

CCR Rule §257.84(b)(1)(i) states that an inspection includes, “a review of available information regarding the status and condition of the CCR unit, including, but not limited to, files available in the operating record (e.g., the results of inspections by a qualified person, and results of previous annual inspections).”

GAI reviewed the following available information prior to performing the inspection:

- ▶ 2022 and 2023 7-day CCR Inspection Reports;
- ▶ 2016 through 2022 Annual Inspection Report;
- ▶ Site Record Drawings; and
- ▶ WVDEP Permit documents.
- ▶ 2022 Annual Operations Report.

The reports are listed under the References section. Conversations were held with the Landfill operators before the inspection to obtain additional information, such as operation and maintenance procedures, current state of the Landfill, and the typical process for the operators’ weekly and quarterly reports.

4.0 Visual Inspection

4.1 General Information

The inspection was performed on Thursday, October 26, 2023 by Charles Straley, P.E., P.S., Taylor Boring, and Dean Forshey of GAI. They were accompanied by FirstEnergy representatives Jeff Kapolka and Carol Trembly. The weather conditions were warm and sunny, with temperatures ranging from 60 to 70 degrees Fahrenheit.

4.2 Inspection Strategy and Route

The GAI team inspected the Landfill and its facilities by making visual observations, recording site conditions, and talking to plant personnel.

The inspection began at the southwest edge of the Landfill and progressed east, along the downstream face benches. The inspection then moved to the central area of the Landfill. The inspection progressed to the collection sump at the toe of the Landfill. The inspection continued along the northern perimeter of the Landfill. The inspection ended at the eastern edge of the Landfill.

4.3 Facility Conditions

The facility conditions are noted in the Annual Inspection Checklist, attached to this report in Appendix A, with the observations described in detail below.

The areas observed on the Landfill embankment slopes appeared stable, and no signs of structural instability such as scarps, cracking, sloughing, surface movements, depressions, or wet areas were observed.

Surface water conveyance features (i.e. channels, culverts, etc.) were operating properly. No signs of water leaving the conveyance features were observed. No wet areas or ponding were observed along the Landfill benches, along the toe of the Landfill, nor along downstream pond embankments. There was equipment tire tracks observed along the benches on the west side slope.

The underdrain piping appeared to be functioning properly as leachate and runoff were observed flowing into Sedimentation Pond No. 1.

Sedimentation Ponds No. 1 and 2 appeared to be functioning properly. The downstream embankments appeared stable and no signs of structural instability such as scarps, cracking, sloughing, surface movements, depressions, or wet areas were observed. No signs of clogging nor improper functioning of the riser structure and pipe system were observed.

There was no fugitive dust at the time of the inspection. Water quality monitoring is conducted on a regular basis.

4.4 Geometry

Pursuant to 40 CFR §257.84(b)(2)(i), “any changes in geometry of the structure since the previous annual inspection,” are reported. The Landfill embankment consists of 20-foot wide benches, constructed every 20 vertical feet, with 3H:1V side slopes. Based on visual inspection and a review of the design drawings, the only changes in the geometry of the landfill are a result of the current disposal of CCR material. No changes in established areas were noted based on a review of the topography from 2022 and 2023. The geometry of the landfill is consistent with the design drawings for the landfill.

4.5 Approximate Volume of CCR

Pursuant to 40 CFR §257.84(b)(2)(ii), “the approximate volume of CCR contained in the unit at the time of inspection,” is reported.

The approximate volume of CCR contained in the Landfill at the time of the inspection was 11,702,640 cubic yards.

4.6 Structural Appearance

Pursuant to 40 CFR §257.84(b)(2)(iii) and (iv), “any appearance of an actual or potential structural weakness of the CCR unit, in addition to any existing conditions that are disrupting, or have the potential to disrupt the operation and safety of the CCR unit;” and, “any other change(s) which may have affected the stability or operation of the CCR unit since the previous annual inspection” are reported.

Based on visual inspection, the Landfill appeared to have no structural weaknesses, no existing conditions that are disrupting or have the potential to disrupt the operation and safety of the CCR unit at the time of the inspection.

4.7 Unit Performance

Based on a visual inspection, there did not appear to be any other changes that would affect the stability or operation of the Landfill beyond what was mentioned in the Facility Conditions section.

5.0 Conclusions and Recommendations

During the 2023 visual inspection of the Landfill, GAI did not identify any signs of distress or malfunction that would affect the structural condition of the landfill. No releases of CCR were observed during the 2023 inspection. GAI recommends normal maintenance practices employed continue.

6.0 References

- Civil & Environmental Consultants, Inc., *Application for Renewal, Solid Waste Permit No. WV0079171, McElroy's Run Disposal Facility*, February 2007
- Environmental Protection Agency, *40 CFR Parts 257 and 261, Hazardous and Solid Waste Management System; Disposal of Coal Combustion Residuals from Electric Utilities*, April 17, 2015.
- FirstEnergy, *2016 Annual Operations Report, Pleasants Power Station*, October 2017.
- FirstEnergy, *2017 Annual Operations Report, Pleasants Power Station*, October 2018.
- FirstEnergy, *2018 Annual Operations Report, Pleasants Power Station*, September 2019.
- FirstEnergy, *2019 Annual Operations Report, Pleasants Power Station*, September 2020.
- FirstEnergy, *2020 Annual Operations Report, Pleasants Power Station*, September 2021.
- FirstEnergy, *2021 Annual Operations Report, Pleasants Power Station*, September 2022.
- GAI Consultants, *Federal CCR 7 Day Inspection Forms*, September 2021 through September 2022.
- FirstEnergy, *2015 Annual Operations Report, Pleasants Power Station*, September 2016.
- GAI Consultants, Inc., *2016 Annual Inspection Report, Pleasants Power Station Landfill*; December 2016.
- GAI Consultants, Inc., *2017 Annual Inspection Report, Pleasants Power Station Landfill*; December 2017.
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- GAI Consultants, Inc., *2019 Annual Inspection Report, Pleasants Power Station Landfill*; December 2019.
- GAI Consultants, Inc., *2020 Annual Inspection Report, Pleasants Power Station Landfill*; January 2021.
- GAI Consultants, Inc., *2021 Annual Inspection Report, Pleasants Power Station Landfill*; January 2022.
- GAI Consultants, Inc., *2022 Annual Inspection Report, Pleasants Power Station Landfill*; December 2022.

APPENDIX A

Annual Inspection Checklist