VALMONT STATION

INFORMATION SHEET
COLORADO

COAL ASH RECYCLING & GROUNDWATER ACTION PLAN FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Xcel Energy®

Charah Coal Ash Recycling Project

What is the Charah Coal Ash Recycling project?
Through an agreement with Charah Solutions, we plan to permanently close the regulated landfill at Valmont Station by removing the coal ash. Charah will set up operations on our property to excavate and process about 85% of the coal ash from the landfill for sale into the local ready-mix concrete market. Coal ash is used as a partial replacement for cement that would otherwise need to be manufactured from mined limestone.

We expect Charah to set up operations at Valmont in 2024 and begin processing material as soon as summer 2025, with the entire project lasting up to 12 years, depending on the local concrete market.

What are the anticipated noise and traffic impacts of the Charah project?
We have worked with Charah Solutions to minimize noise, dust and traffic from the landfill closure, in addition to any applicable state permit conditions that will address local impacts. Charah's processing equipment is fully contained to manage dust and is relatively quiet, with sound levels expected to be comparable to or lower than the sound levels of previous plant operations. Truck traffic is expected to be about the same as traffic levels when the plant operated on coal.

What is coal ash?
Coal combustion residuals, commonly known as coal ash, are byproducts of the combustion of coal at power plants by electric utilities and independent power producers. Coal ash is mainly made up of rocks, minerals and other noncombustible, natural materials that are present in coal when it is mined from the earth. Coal ash contains less than 1% of trace elements, which are also found in soil and naturally exist in our environment.

Is coal ash hazardous?
Over the years, many studies have evaluated the environmental impact and safety of coal ash. The results support the classification of coal ash by the US Environmental Protection Agency as a nonhazardous waste, but also confirm the importance of responsibly managing, storing, disposing and reusing coal ash.

What are the benefits of recycling coal ash?
The Charah project is a win for the environment, our customers, community and the local building materials market because:

- By working with Charah, we'll recycle the coal ash at a significantly lower cost than disposal with a much lower environmental impact. The ash removal project, including Charah restoration of the area after recycling, is expected to cost approximately 80% less than excavating and transporting the ash to another permitted landfill for disposal.
- Recycling coal ash saves natural resources that would otherwise be used to produce Portland cement and reduces greenhouse gas emissions associated with cement production since the recycled ash can be used as a partial cement substitute in concrete applications.

Groundwater Action Plan

What are groundwater monitoring wells?
To confirm that our design and operating practices are effective at coal ash facilities, we install monitoring wells to test groundwater and monitor performance. These monitoring wells are designed and constructed to ensure collection of representative groundwater samples.

Regulations and permits determine the number and location of wells. State and federal requirements specify that groundwater monitoring systems include wells located up- and down-gradient of the facilities to assess the quality of groundwater entering and leaving the site, which can help in identifying other background sources that may influence groundwater conditions in the area.

Have you detected coal ash constituents related to the regulated landfill in the groundwater at Valmont Station?
Through our monitoring on the Valmont property, we've detected lithium and selenium in groundwater at concentrations above groundwater protection standards. These constituents are naturally occurring elements present in rock, coal and groundwater. Like many substances, these constituents can be potentially harmful if ingested in too high of concentrations.

Have you detected coal ash constituents in groundwater at properties adjacent to Valmont Station? Is my drinking water safe if there are elevated levels of groundwater constituents?
We have detected lithium and selenium in groundwater at nearby properties, but there is no evidence that anyone is drinking water in the area with lithium or selenium levels above the groundwater protection standards. We're continuing to monitor groundwater in the area to ensure conditions remain safe over time.

What are you doing to address the groundwater conditions in the area?
In May 2023 we are announcing our proposed plan to start to extract (pump out) and treat groundwater as a corrective measure to address groundwater conditions at Valmont Station and to prevent further migration of coal ash constituents offsite, along with our plans to permanently close the regulated landfill at the site and to beneficially recycle the ash for sale into the local ready-mix concrete market. After considering public input on the options we evaluated, we'll select a course of action. We'll implement the plan as soon as possible but expect a solution will be installed and operating starting in 2024.

Who can I contact with questions?
If you have questions, contact:

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For more information, visit **xcelenergy.com/ProjectsNearYou** and select Valmont Station, or contact **iffie.m.jennings@xcelenergy.com**.

Para obtener más información, visite **xcelenergy.com/ProjectsNearYou** y seleccione Valmont Station, o contáctenos directamente al **iffie.m.jennings@xcelenergy.com**.