2019 Annual Inspection Report

for Compliance with the Coal Combustion Residuals Rule
(40 CFR Part 257)

Hayden Station

13125 U.S. Highway 40
Hayden, Colorado 81638

January 18, 2020
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Certification

Hayden Station - CCR Unit 2019 Annual Inspection for Compliance with the Federal Coal Combustion Residuals Rule

I hereby certify that the Coal Combustion Residuals (CCR) unit (i.e. the landfill) at Hayden Station meets the inspection and operation standards specified in 40 CFR Part 257.84(b) of the Federal CCR Rule. The Hayden Station is owned by the Public Service Company of Colorado (PSCo), an Xcel Energy Company.

I am duly licensed Professional Engineer under the laws of the State of Colorado.

Matthew Rohr, PE
Colorado PE License 0053467
License renewal date October 31, 2021
1 Introduction

On April 17, 2015 the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) published regulations under Subtitle D of the Resources Conservation and Control Act (RCRA) meant to control the safe disposal of coal combustion residuals (CCR) generated by coal fired electric utilities. The rule defines a set of requirements for the disposal and handling of CCR within CCR units (defined as either landfills or surface impoundments). Hayden Station has one CCR unit: a landfill. As specified in 40 CFR 257.84(b), “Existing and new CCR landfills and any lateral expansion of a CCR landfill must be inspected on a periodic basis by a qualified professional engineer to ensure that the design, construction, operation, and maintenance of the CCR unit is consistent with recognized and generally accepted good engineering standards.”

This is the fifth annual inspection report for the existing Hayden CCR landfill. This report must be completed and placed into the facility operating record no later than January 18, 2020.

The requirements of the annual inspection include:

- A review of available information regarding the status and condition of the CCR unit - §257.84 (B)(1)(i),
- A visual inspection of the CCR unit to identify signs of distress or malfunction - §257.84 (B)(1)(ii),
- An inspection report that includes the following:
  - Changes in geometry since the last inspection - §257.84 (B)(2)(i)
  - Approximate volume of CCR in unit at time of inspection - §257.84 (B)(2)(ii)
  - Appearance of actual or potential structural weakness of the CCR unit - §257.84 (B)(2)(iii)
  - Any other changes which may have affected the stability or operation of the CCR unit since the last inspection - §257.84 (B)(2)(iv)

2 Site Inspection

In accordance with §257.84(b)(ii), a site inspection of the Hayden CCR unit was conducted by an independent Professional Engineer on October 23, 2019. This site inspection was performed in advance of the CCR submittal deadline to ensure that the inspection was completed prior to snow covering the ground given the high elevation of this facility. The visual site inspection was conducted by Matthew Rohr, a Colorado Professional Engineer of HDR Engineering, Inc. Review of the associated paper work and inspection reports was conducted by Matthew Rohr and Mark Stewart, an Xcel Energy Environmental Analyst for the Hayden Station.

The weather during the site visit was cloudy with temperatures ranging from 35 to 45 degrees Fahrenheit. The site was partially covered with a thin layer of snow.
3 Review of Available Information

Numerous documents pertaining to the site operation and structural integrity were reviewed including:

1. Engineering Design and Operation Plan (EDOP) dated July 29, 2019, prepared by Burns & McDonnell Engineering Company, Inc. with CDPHE conditional approval letter dated August 29, 2019. The approval letter stated that “…the EDOP meets the requirements…” and the included conditions are standard in approval letters from CDPHE. The EDOP included all applicable documentation required by CDPHE including but not limited to Design Drawings, Groundwater Monitoring Plan, CQA Plan, and a Final Closure Plan. Xcel Energy Environmental Analyst reported that the landfill is operating under this approved plan and there have been no changes since the approval.

2. CDPHE reportedly made one site visit to the landfill area in August of 2019. A CDPHE inspection checklist was completed which found the facility to be operating in compliance and noted minor compliance assistance items including a recommendation for contact water pond liner system repair (due to wildlife damage) be conducted in accordance with applicable Construction Quality Assurance requirements and that the repair be coordinated with the Solid Waste Permitting Unit at CDPHE. The damage had already been identified through facility inspections and repair work had already been scheduled at the time of the inspection.

3. Geo-Electric Liner Integrity Survey report dated October 1, 2019, documenting the completion of the contact water pond post-repair geo-electric liner integrity survey completed in September 2019.

4. Weekly CCR Landfill Inspection Forms (per Section 257.84(a)).

5. October 2019 As-Built Survey with updated topography; the survey field work was completed October 16 - 17, 2019, performed by Four Points Surveying and Engineering.

6. Records of annual ash tonnage delivered to the CCR landfill from the generation facility from October 2018 through October 2019.

Review of the above documents did not contain any indications of operation, safety, or structural concerns regarding the CCR landfill.

4 Visual Inspection

Matthew Rohr completed a site inspection covering the entire landfill area. As the CCR rule pertains only to the CCR landfill itself, this report does not address existing topsoil stockpiles and native earth excavations that lie east of the landfill (located on native ground).

The site inspection included an evaluation of the following landfill features:
1. landfill side slopes and toe of slope;
2. landfill side slope benches;
3. lined contact storm water pond;
4. upper water quality pond (northwest pond);
5. stormwater drainage conveyance channels (southern, western, northwestern, and eastern);
6. lower storm water ponds (toe of landfill – northwest and southwest);
7. access roads;
8. active CCR fill areas (CCR disposal, spreading, and compaction); and
9. temporary soil covered CCR landfilled areas.

The following are the findings of the site inspection:

- The landfill side slopes have grades of approximately 4 horizontal to 1 vertical (4H:1V); well established vegetation; and show little to no signs of erosion and no signs of operational or functional concerns.
- The side slopes are constructed with erosion control benches at regular intervals. Benches are approximately 10 feet in width. In areas of more recent filling, benches were developed with a back slope to create a swale that directs stormwater runoff to a downchute channel. In older portions of the landfill, benches simply create a flat area to slow stormwater flow. The older portions of the benches have substantial vegetation cover and limited areas of minor rill erosion. The benches showed no signs of operational or functional concern.
- In general, areas that had a topsoil layer were stabilized with a dense stand of vegetation and were functioning as intended. Small and localized areas of minor rill erosion were observed in isolated areas around the vegetated areas. These should continue to be monitored.
- In general, areas more recently constructed where a topsoil layer has not yet been installed and vegetation not yet established were showing signs of rill erosion. This is expected due to the slope grades and lack of vegetation. Rill erosion in these areas posed no apparent operational or structural concerns. Once the topsoil layer is placed, seeded, and a dense stand of vegetation established, the bank faces are anticipated to be stabilized.
- All four site stormwater management ponds (three non-contact ponds and one contact pond) appear to be functioning as intended with no operational or structural concerns. The conveyance channels into the perimeter non-contact stormwater ponds appear adequately armored with articulated concrete block or erosion control blankets to minimize concentrated conveyance erosion in the conveyance channels. The conveyance routes to these perimeter stormwater ponds and the ponds themselves
were not observed to have functional or operational concerns. This pond was constructed with a synthetic liner to prevent stormwater infiltration into the CCR landfill. The Contact Stormwater Pond has a perimeter fence to prevent access by wildlife. As noted in the CDPHE inspection checklist and as previously identified through facility inspections, minor puncture damage occurred to the liner above the high water mark due to wildlife approaching the pond. The perimeter fence that was constructed for the pond is of sufficient height to prevent access by wildlife. However, during some routine work, the gate to the pond was accidentally left open briefly, allowing wildlife to access the pond. The repairs to the liner system had already been scheduled at the time of the inspection and were completed on September 30, 2019.

- The access roads to the top of the landfill showed no signs of operational or structural concern. The road side slopes were vegetated and had minimal rill erosion. The plateau road showed no signs of operational or structural concern.
- There was active CCR disposal during the site inspection with placement of CCR material. The material was observed during unloading into piles but spreading and compaction was not observed during the inspection. On-site equipment and reported operational procedures have not changed since the prior inspection. Wind blown CCR was not observed during site observation.
- The capped CCR landfill areas appeared to have adequate soil cover, had established vegetation, and showed no signs of operational or structural concern.

5 Changes in Geometry

The Federal CCR Rules require that site geometry changes be identified since the last inspection. The site geometry changed in several areas since the previous inspection due to continued CCR disposal, top landfill grading modifications, and construction of additional perimeter soil embankment. Specific changes are listed below:

1. A perimeter soil embankment which started construction in 2018 on the west and north sides of the CCR disposal area was continued to the south and east of the southern cell. It was constructed to a height of roughly ten feet.
2. The top plateau of the main landfill area continued to accept CCR on the northern cell of the plateau until it reached intermediate design grades and was covered with intermediate cover. Operations were then shifted to the middle cell of the plateau. Lifts continue to be constructed with CCR placement, followed by an intermediate soil cover to create a stepped slope that matches the remainder of the western face.
3. Minor surface grading around the southern cell to direct non-contact stormwater to the southern conveyance channel.
4. Placing ash and intermediate cover soils to in the footprint of the former contact pond in the southeast portion of the landfill.
5. Construction of an interior berm in the south portion of the middle cell. The interior berm spans from the haul road adjacent to the contact water pond to the perimeter berm along the western edge of the landfill.
No structural or safety concerns were observed due the site geometric changes. Fill placement is expected to continue in a similar manner in the main landfill plateau top in 2019.

6 Approximate CCR Volume

The reported estimated CCR volume is based on the tonnage of CCR delivered to the landfill from the power plant. The CCR volume was estimated based on the power plant operation and electric load type from 1984 to December 1999. From January 2000 up to the present, Xcel Energy has recorded monthly CCR volumes. The total combined volume of CCR deposited within the landfill through October 2018 was estimated to be 8,494,000 cubic yards. The additional CCR deposited from November 2018 through October 2019 is estimated to be 178,500, assuming one cubic yard of CCR material equates to one ton. The total CCR volume in the landfill as of the end of October 2019 is estimated to be 8,672,500 CY.

7 Appearance of Structural Weakness

Based on the site inspection, no apparent or potential structural weaknesses were observed. Continued monitoring and minor repairs or surface vegetation should be completed to address rill and gully erosion before it becomes a potential structural landfill weakness.

8 Changes Affecting Stability or Operation

There were no observed or reported operation changes that are anticipated to impact the site’s near-term or long-term stability. The southern perimeter stormwater conveyance channel that was previously noted to have gully erosion has been regraded and is now armored.
Appendix A – Landfill Site Map