2018 Annual Inspection Report

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

Pawnee Station

14940 Morgan County Road 24
Brush, Colorado 80723

January 18, 2019
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Certification

Pawnee Station - CCR Unit 2018 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 Pawnee Station meets the inspection and operation standards specified in 40 CFR Part 257.84(b) of the Federal CCR Rule. The Pawnee 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.

Brian Brown, PE
Colorado PE License 0041644
License renewal date October 31, 2019
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). 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.” Pawnee Station has one CCR landfill subject to the inspection requirements.

This is the fourth annual inspection report for the existing Pawnee CCR landfill. This report must be completed and placed into the facility operating record no later than January 18, 2019.

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 Pawnee CCR unit (i.e. landfill) was conducted on December 5, 2018. The inspection was conducted by Brian Brown, a Colorado Professional Engineer of HDR Engineering Inc. and Richard Ferguson, an Xcel Energy Environmental Analyst at the Pawnee Station. Review of the associated paper work and inspection reports was conducted by Brian Brown and Richard Ferguson.

The landfill CCR placement started as an incised CCR unit below existing grade but has become a fill above existing grade. Through historical site operational review, PSCo has determined that only the northern portion of the overall landfill footprint, including the contact water pond, is defined as the CCR landfill, and is subject to the CCR Rule. The area historically used for lime disposal located to the south of the CCR landfill is not part of the CCR Annual Inspection.
The weather during the site visit was sunny with temperatures ranging from 55 to 65 degrees Fahrenheit. The site was free of snow cover.

3 Review of Available Information

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

1. The Engineering Design and Operation Plan (EDOP) document, Revision 3 dated January, 2018 and developed by HDR, was not re-reviewed but the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment acceptance letter, dated July 3, 2018 from Jace Driver, was reviewed. This revision letter specifically accepts, among other measures, steeper side slopes, the Closure Turf system, and the closure and post-closure cost estimates.

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

3. As-Built topographic survey with an issue date of October 9, 2018, by Edward-James Surveying, Inc. This topographic survey only covered the northern portion of the site within the perimeter road and does not include the contact water pond to the south of the CCR landfill area. However, the contact water pond is shown on the 2016 survey with aerial topography.

4. Reportedly, there were no CDPHE inspections of the landfill in 2018.

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

4 Visual Inspection

Brian Brown, escorted by Richard Ferguson, completed a site inspection, driving and walking the perimeter of the landfill and observing all landfill slopes. As the CCR Rule pertains only to the CCR landfill itself, this report does not address existing topsoil stockpiles or earthwork outside of the landfill area.

The site inspection included an evaluation of the following CCR landfill features:

1. Interior landfill and exterior landfill perimeter road side slopes;

2. Contact water pond;

3. Access roads;

4. Active CCR fill area (CCR disposal, spreading, compaction), and;

5. Temporarily soil covered CCR landfill areas.
The following are the findings of the site inspection:

- There is a perimeter landfill access road that is incised into the native soil side slopes or is a ridge road on a constructed embankment, depending on location. The ridge road embankment sections are on the east and west side of the landfill. The western ridge road embankment showed no substantial signs of rill erosion. Two embankment areas on the northwest side of the landfill had rill erosion in 2016 have been regraded reportedly multiple times and did not show rill erosion at the time of inspection. However, vegetation has not been established in these areas and rill erosion is likely to reoccur. PSCo should consider a long term fix such as establishing vegetation on the slope, routing the perimeter road drainage to the interior of the landfill, or controlling the flow in another manner.
- The eastern ridge road embankment showed minimal rill erosion and no signs of operational or functional concern.
- The incised sections of perimeter access road showed no signs of operational or structural concern.
- The interior side slope of the CCR landfill has some signs of rill erosion. This is likely due to the relatively steep side slope. The amount of rill erosion is most prevalent on the west side primarily above the contact water pond where the embankment vertical height is the greatest. As this area is adjacent but does not retain CCR material, it is above the CCR pond, rill erosion on this bank is not expected to impact the CCR structural stability. This area should continue to be monitored to verify that erosion does not lead to a larger operational or structural issue. The area of rill erosion mentioned in the 2017 report on the west side of the interior slope above the landfill has been covered by CCR placement as the landfill now is above existing grade.
- The areas of rill erosion in the CCR landfill showed no signs of operational or functional concern.
- The site inspection included observation of CCR unloading and spreading. Compaction was not observed as PSCo is reportedly able to achieve adequate material density by the truck and equipment traffic as part of normal operation. Wind blown CCR was not observed during dumping operations.
- The capped CCR landfill areas appeared to have adequate soil cover and showed no signs of operational and structural concern.

5 Changes in Geometry

The Federal CCR Rules require that site geometry changes be identified since the last inspection. The CCR landfill footprint has not changed since the last inspection. The landfill height has increased roughly 50 feet since the last inspection and the side slopes have been increased in steepness per the approved EDOP. The contact water pond geometry remains unchanged from the 2016 survey.
6  Approximate CCR Volume

PSCo reviewed known and extrapolated ash generation rates, reviewed known beneficial ash usage between 1996 and 2014, and calculated landfill volumes based on a prior EDOP dated February 2011, Rev. 2.0. After analyzing the calculated volumes, PSCo estimates that the total combined volume of CCR on-site as of October 2017 to be 1,597,630 cubic yards. The additional CCR deposited from November 2017 to November 2018 is estimated to be 205,317 CY, assuming one cubic yard of CCR material equates to one ton. The total CCR volume in the landfill as of November 2018 is estimated to be 1,802,950 CY.

7  Appearance of Structural Weakness

Based on the site inspection, no apparent or potential structural weaknesses were observed. Per Section 4 above and in areas that are retaining CCR, continued monitoring and minor repairs should be completed to address rill and gully erosion as it occurs. Depending on severity, proximity to CCR fill elevation, and continued stormwater source water, the erosion impacted areas along the exterior of the ridge road embankment may require mitigation measures.

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. No areas of severe rill or gully erosion were observed that had the potential to lead to long term stability concerns. There were no new stability concerns observed or reported at the time of inspection.
Appendix A – Landfill Site Map
PAWNEE SEGS - UNIT 1
NORTH CCR LANDFILL
TOP OF CCR VERIFICATION

TOP ELEV - 4414'