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To: CCR Operating Record  
Re: Annual Progress Report pursuant to 40 CFR 257.103

The existing Coal Combustion Residuals (CCR) surface impoundment at the Columbia Energy Center (COL) will close in accordance with the CCR Closure Plan to meet the requirements of 40 CFR 257.101(b)(1). There is currently an absence of available alternative disposal capacity and CCR will continue to be managed in the CCR Unit until alternative capacity is developed, as allowed under 40 CFR 101(b)(4) and 103(a).

This annual progress report describes the continued lack of alternative capacity and the progress towards the development of alternative CCR disposal capacity. This report has been developed in accordance with 40 CFR 257.103(a) and applies to the following CCR units at this facility:

CCR Surface Impoundment  
COL Primary Ash Pond

Current Management

The COL Primary Ash Pond is the primary receiver of sluiced bottom ash and economizer ash. Unit 1 ash discharges into the southeast corner of the COL Primary Ash Pond and Unit 2 into the west side of the COL Primary Ash Pond. The majority of the CCR that is discharged into the COL Primary Ash Pond is removed during maintenance dredging activities. The CCR that is dredged is stockpiled in the western half of the COL Primary Ash Pond for dewatering. Once dewatered the CCR (bottom ash) is sent through a crushing and screening operation to separate coarsely graded CCR from the finely graded CCR. The CCR is then transported off-site for beneficial reuse. The finely graded material is transported to the on-site active dry ash landfill east of the generating plant.

On-site Capacity

The COL Ash Pond is the only existing CCR surface impoundment located at this facility capable of directly receiving wet-generated CCR and is required to close pursuant to 257.101(b)(1). An inactive CCR unit is also located on site, but it cannot receive CCR after October 19, 2015. In addition, the inactive CCR unit will be closed through removal of CCR. A CCR landfill is located on-site, but it cannot accept free liquids associated with wet-generated CCR. There is no other on-site capacity for direct management of wet-generated CCR.

Off-site Capacity

Bottom ash and economizer ash are wet-generated at COL. It is not feasible to re-direct wet-generated CCR to an off-site facility. (See Federal Register at 80 FR 21423 regarding feasibility of transporting wet-generated CCR and applicability of alternative closure requirements.)

Progress Toward Development of Alternative Disposal Capacity

The facility has made, and continues to make, efforts to obtain additional capacity. The facility is currently planning changes to CCR management, including installation of a system that will end placement of wet-generated CCR in the COL Primary Pond and enable closure of the CCR unit in 2023.

Specific actions taken during this reporting period include:

- Developed options analyses for bottom ash handling systems.
- Completed water balance study to evaluate changes in non-CCR waste waters that are currently managed within the COL Primary Pond.
- Obtained new Wisconsin Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (WPDES) permit that addresses discharges of CCR to the COL Primary Pond.
- Submitted certification to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources that discharges to the COL Primary Pond will end in 2023.
- Continued evaluation of the on-site CCR landfill by an Owner's Engineer to determine whether design should be modified to support updated ash management practices at the facility.
- Continued compliance with inspection, reporting, recordkeeping, and groundwater monitoring requirements of the CCR Rule.

For more information, please contact the Alliant Energy CCR Rule Compliance Program at [CCRprogram@alliantenergy.com](mailto:CCRprogram@alliantenergy.com).

Signed,



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