May 5, 2023

Notification of Intent to Close Coal Combustion Residuals Surface Impoundment Columbia Energy Center – Primary Pond Wisconsin Power and Light Company

In compliance with 40 CFR 257.102(g), Wisconsin Power and Light Company (WPL) has prepared this notification of intent to close the Primary Pond, an existing CCR Surface Impoundment, at the Columbia Energy Center in Portage, Wisconsin. The unit is no longer receiving CCR or non-CCR wastewater and WPL does not intend to remove any additional CCR material from this unit for beneficial use.

On November 24, 2020, Wisconsin Power and Light Company (WPL) submitted a complete demonstration to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) that requested approval of a site-specific alternative deadline to initiate closure pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 257.103(f)(1) for the existing CCR surface impoundment (Primary Ash Pond) located at the Columbia Energy Center near Portage, Wisconsin. In that submittal, WPL requested an alternative deadline of October 31, 2022 to continue to receive CCR and non-CCR wastestreams at the Primary Main Ash Pond after April 11, 2021 in order to install new capacity for managing non-CCR wastewaters, including a new bottom ash handling system. On January 11, 2022, EPA informed WPL that the demonstration was complete and that the April 11, 2021 deadline to cease receipt of waste was tolled pending a final decision on the application. WPL subsequently amended the application on two occasions due to unforeseen project delays, resulting in a requested site-specific alternative deadline of March 31, 2023.

The new bottom ash handling system is now operational and final tests of on-site storage capacity have been completed. Thus, the Primary Ash Pond has permanently ceased receipt of CCR and non-CCR wastewaters as of March 23, 2023.

WPL intends to close the CCR Surface Impoundment through removal of the CCR material and disposal of the material in a lined CCR landfill. There is no liner in the CCR Surface Impoundment. The closure will be completed in accordance with §257.102 of the CCR Rule, the written CCR Closure Plan, and approvals issued by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

Signed,

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