

AMENDED CLOSURE PLAN FOR ASH POND

Plant Greene County
Alabama Power Company
Greene County, Alabama

Revision 1 April 2020

AMENDED CLOSURE PLAN REVISION 1
40 C.F.R. § 257.102(b)(3) and ADEM Admin. Code r. 335-13-15-.07(3)(b)3.

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ATTACHMENTS

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Design Drawings

1. Introduction

This Amended Closure Plan has been prepared to support the permit application previously submitted to the Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM) for the CCR Surface Impoundment known as the Plant Greene County Ash Pond, located north of Demopolis, Greene County, Alabama. The permit application was submitted in accordance with ADEM Admin. Code r. 335-13-15-.09(1)(c). This Amended Closure Plan, along with other documents, is intended to supplement the previous submittal in response to the ADEM letter dated May 24, 2019 which provided response comments to the original application.

The closure of the ash pond will be accomplished by leaving the CCR in-place, by method of consolidating the existing footprint of approximately 489 acres to approximately 221 acres. CCR removed from outside of the consolidated footprint will be dewatered, excavated, and compacted within the consolidated footprint.

2. General

The Plant Greene County Ash Pond was designed to receive and store coal combustion residuals produced during the coal-fired electric generating process at Plant Greene County and to serve as a low-volume wastewater treatment pond. CCR products were sluiced from the plant to the Ash Pond. The pond covers approximately 489 acres, and currently stores about 10,300,000 cubic yards of CCR.

The Ash Pond was originally constructed between 1960 and 1965. The pond is formed by continuous dikes referenced as the east, south, north, and west dikes. The crest elevations of the dikes are as follows: the east dike ranges from 102.6-ft to 113.6-ft, the south dike ranges from 95.5-ft to 103-ft, the west dike ranges from 95.5-ft to 103.2-ft, and the north dike ranges from 103.3-ft to 113.6-ft. The maximum height of the embankment is 25 feet. The current dike elevations were reached on the east and west by raising the top elevations by as much as 3 feet between 1994 and 2005. These modifications included raising approximately 1,500 feet of the east dike, raising approximately 3,200 feet of the west dike, and extending and modifying the diversion dike to direct flow westerly to allow for more travel distance to support ash deposition. In 2009 the east dike was widened to the inside to address concerns with the adjoining barge canal slope. Finally, the west dike was widened in 2010.

The outboard slope of the east dike is abutted by the slope of the barge canal. After the widening of the east dike in 2009, the crest width from the crest of the barge canal to the inboard crest of the embankment was approximately 50 feet, resulting in an embankment that is more than twice as wide as it is high.

The Plant Greene County Ash Pond will be closed by leaving CCR in place, with consolidation of CCR to reduce the closure footprint to approximately 221 acres. The Ash Pond will be dewatered sufficiently to begin removal of the free liquids and to an extent to provide a stable base for the construction of an ash containment structure for the consolidated footprint, removal of ash outside the consolidated footprint and, construction of the final cover system. CCR will be dredged or excavated from the area outside the consolidated footprint, transported, and disposed of in the consolidated footprint to create a subgrade for the final cover system. Excavation will include removing all visible ash and over excavating into the subgrade soils. Additional details about the dewatering and construction methods to be used can be found within this Amended Closure Plan.

The final cover will be constructed to control, minimize or eliminate, to the maximum extent feasible, post closure infiltration of liquids into the waste and potential releases of CCR from the unit. This will be prevented by providing sufficient grades and slopes to: 1) preclude the probability of future impoundment of water, slurry, or sediment; 2) ensure slope and cover system stability; 3) minimize the need for further maintenance; and 4) be completed in the shortest amount of time consistent with recognized and generally accepted good engineering practices.

3. Notification – Intent to Close

Notification of intent to close the Plant Greene County Ash Pond was placed in the plant's Operating Record on April 15, 2019. The notice of intent was subsequently submitted directly to ADEM. The surface impoundment is closing under the requirements of § 257.101(a)(1) and r. 335-13-15-.07(2)(a)1. Closure of the surface impoundment will be conducted under §257.102(d) and r. 335-13-15-.07(3)(d), *closure performance standard when leaving CCR in place*. As described in more detail below, the surface impoundment will be closed in a manner that will control, minimize or eliminate, to the maximum extent feasible, post-closure infiltration of liquids into the waste and releases of CCR, leachate, or contaminated runoff to the ground or surface waters or to the atmosphere. Closure will also preclude the probability of future impoundment of water, sediment or slurry. Measures will be taken during design and construction of the closure system that provide for major slope stability to prevent the sloughing or movement of the final cover system. Closure will also minimize the need for further maintenance of the CCR unit.

Major closure activities will commence following receipt of a CCR permit from ADEM pursuant to r. 335-13-15-.09.

4. Written Closure Plan – § 257.102(b)(1)(i),(iii) and r. 335-13-15-.07(3)(b)1.(i),(iii)

a. Overview

A written closure plan to comply with § 257.102(b) was posted to the Plant Greene County Operating Record on October 17, 2016. A revised written closure plan incorporating reference to applicable ADEM Administrative Codes was submitted as a part of the original CCR Permit application.

As required by § 257.102(b)(3)(ii) and r. 335-13-15-.07(3)(b)3.(ii), the written closure plan must be amended whenever (i) there is a change in the operation of the CCR unit that would substantially affect the written closure plan or (ii) before or after closure activities have commenced when unanticipated events necessitate a revision of the written closure plan. The time frames for amendment to the written closure plan is in accordance with those specified in § 257.102(b)(3)(iii) and r. 335-13-15-.07(3)(b)3.(iii).

b. Closure Steps

i. Site Preparation

1) ***Ash pond cease receipt date and activities leading up to date***

The ash pond ceased operation and receipt of CCR materials in March 2016. However, after that time, the pond continued to receive low volume wastes and/or other process waters from the Plant until the notification of intent to initiate closure was placed in the Operating Record on April 15, 2019.

Plant Greene County began generating electricity as a two unit coal-fired facility in 1965. During plant operations, CCR material was sluiced into the northern end of the ash pond and allowed to decant naturally. The coarser fraction of the CCR material, consisting of bottom ash, deposited in the northern portion of the ash pond, while the finer fraction, consisting of fly ash, settled out in the southern portion of the ash pond. A concrete riser structure and outlet pipe was installed at the southeast corner of the ash pond, and this structure discharged water from the ash pond to the Black Warrior River, in accordance with state regulations. Periodically throughout its operation, the ash pond underwent planned modifications. The exterior dikes were raised, and modifications were made at the southern end to direct the flow of surface water within the ash pond. In the mid-1990's nine simple cycle combustion turbine units were placed into operation for generation during peak periods.

Planning to convert the plant for gas-fired operations began in 2014. The Unit 1 coal-fired unit ended operations on February 25, 2016, followed by Unit 2 on March 30, 2016, and a project to convert both units to burn natural gas was completed later in 2016, with the fuel supply through the existing gas transmission pipeline installed for the combustion turbine units. Therefore, on March 30, 2016, CCR material was no longer generated.

The design for the ash pond closure calls for consolidating the CCR material within the northern portion of the existing ash pond, which will occupy approximately 221 acres within a diked area, bounded on the northern end by the northern portion of the existing exterior dike, and to the east, west, and south by a new interior dike constructed as part of the ash pond closure. A barrier wall keyed into the existing underlying chalk layer will be constructed around the perimeter of the consolidated CCR

material, along with a final cover, consisting of an engineered synthetic turf and geomembrane. The existing exterior dikes will be left in place at the completion of ash pond closure activities. The existing discharge structure will be removed and replaced during pond closure with a reinforced concrete discharge structure and outlet pipe, equipped with stop logs to control the water level within the ash pond during and after closure. During this design phase, a contractor was selected and closure construction planning commenced.

2) Contractor Mobilization

The Contractor mobilized to the site in February 2019. Initial activities included site preparation to develop contractor facilities (trailers to house support staff), laydown and staging areas, and initial erosion control measures.

3) Vegetation Management

Removed vegetation will be consolidated and burned in excavated burn pits using an Air Curtain Destructor (ACD). Greene County allows vegetation to be burned year-round; however, vegetation will be removed in phases and sequenced as discussed below. Surficial vegetation will be removed ahead of grading operations to the extent needed to support construction. Existing vegetation will serve to stabilize the ash surface and reduce erosion.

4) Clearing/Grading

The construction activities described below will be conducted systematically in phases and repeated within each phase as closure construction proceeds. Initial activities within the ash pond include installation of a Water Treatment Facility for ash contact water, removal of surface vegetation, fish and wildlife removal, construction of haul roads using ash material, and establishment of stormwater controls. Stormwater controls will consist of constructing ditches and installing sump areas equipped with pumps, and piping to convey collected water to Clear Pool areas. Collected water within the Clear Pool areas will be pumped to the temporary Water Treatment Facility, and then discharged in accordance with established permit requirements. Initial ash dewatering activities include removal of standing water (free water) within the ash pond, and removal of interstitial water using passive methods, such as rim ditches to reduce the moisture content and allow for CCR excavation and handling. Passive methods will be implemented whenever possible, and active dewatering (using wellpoint systems or other means) will be used as necessary. Removal of free and interstitial water must take place prior to start of CCR excavation and handling and continue throughout the life of the project.

5) Additional Pre-dewatering Site Specific Work

There is no site specific pre-dewatering work for the ash pond at Plant Greene County.

ii. Removal of Free Water and In-situ Dewatering

Existing free water is generally located at the southern portion of the ash pond. Initially, pore water and free-standing water, not utilized for dust control, will be removed from the CCR and from areas within the ash pond and transferred in a controlled manner to Clear Pool areas. Water within the Clear Pool will be transferred to the temporary Water Treatment Facility for treatment prior to discharge. Initial dewatering of the excavation areas will consist of conventional methods such as rim ditching, cross ditching, sumps, stacking, and windrowing of the in-situ material to relieve surface and interstitial water.

iii. Excavation of CCR from the Closure by Removal Area

As initial dewatering removes interstitial water within the CCR material and the moisture content within the CCR material decreases, the initial excavation of CCR materials will begin.

Initially, bottom ash will be excavated from the northern area of the ash pond and used to construct temporary haul roads within the pond footprint. A Clear Pool area will be installed and pumped to assist in pond dewatering in this area.

Cut and fill areas will be broken into grids, with each grid having its own designated equipment and manpower group with total focus on the operations inside the work grid. Excavation and fill activities will generally proceed from the northern portion of the pond southward. CCR material will be excavated and completely removed in the existing ash pond area outside of the new interior dike footprint (i.e., the “closure by removal area”) using trackhoes and stacked for further dewatering.

iv. Placement and Stabilization of the CCR within the Consolidation Area

The dewatered CCR material will be loaded into off road trucks and transported to consolidation areas within the designated fill zones (within the footprint for the final cover). Dozers will spread the CCR material and moisture conditioning will be applied as needed to achieve the desired range of moisture content. Equipment will compact the CCR material in horizontal lifts to achieve the required density for the CCR material.

The CCR material within the subgrade of the proposed interior dike will be over excavated and a stable, temporary slope formed to the interior to allow the dike and barrier wall to be constructed. During this time, the subgrade beneath the new dike will be dewatered (discussed in a following section).

The interior dike will be constructed using imported offsite soil borrow material that meets design requirements. The soil material will be moisture conditioned to achieve a desired moisture range and compacted in horizontal lifts to the desired elevation for the barrier wall installation. Interior dike construction will be sequenced with construction of the barrier wall. The over excavated area along the inside perimeter of the interior dike will be backfilled with CCR material and compacted in horizontal lifts as the barrier wall is brought to final grade.

v. **Final Grading of Consolidation Area for Capping**

When areas within the closure footprint approach the designated grade, the CCR material within the final closure footprint will undergo final grading using precise guided equipment. At this time, a protective soil layer will be placed and compacted to protect the surface and minimize erosion until the final cover is installed. The graded material will then be smooth roller compacted per requirements.

vi. **Installation of Final Cover System and Stormwater Management System**

After the final grading of CCR material and the soil cover, a final cover consisting of a geomembrane in combination with an engineered synthetic turf product will be installed. This cover system meets or exceeds all requirements of § 257.102(d)(3)(i) and r. 335-13-15-.07(3)(d)3.(i). The system incorporates an integrated drainage layer between the geomembrane and engineered turf to prevent the buildup of water on the cover. The final cover system is covered with a manufactured sand infill which provides further protection of the synthetic turf and geomembrane.

The stormwater system for the ash mound final cover consists of a northern perimeter channel, terrace ditch, downslope channels, and interior dike perimeter ditch with outlet culverts. The stormwater system first conveys stormwater from the ash mound final cover to the interior area between the interior and exterior dikes. From there, the stormwater will be conveyed to the discharge structure and to the Black Warrior River.

The slope of the final cover is a nominal three percent grade, bounded by a portion of the existing exterior dike to the north, and the interior dike on the east, west, and south. This final slope is less than the minimum 5 percent slope required by r. 335-13-15-.07(3)(d)3.(i)(III). Therefore, Alabama Power will be requesting a variance on the final minimum slope. The highest elevation of the final grade (ridge line) is aligned on a north-south axis, and a terrace ditch is located approximately halfway down the slope to collect stormwater. Downslope ditches spaced intermittently below the terrace ditch convey stormwater to a perimeter ditch adjacent to the interior dike, and through culverts installed through the interior dike to the interior area to the south. The northern ditch collects stormwater

from the northern one-third of the final cover area and also discharges to the interior area south of closed ash area.

c. Procedures During Closure

i. Dewatering

Dewatering of the CCR Ponds consists of two phases: decanting of free water and dewatering of interstitial water within the CCR material. Dewatering will be required prior to ash excavation and throughout construction.

Free water collected in Clear Pools will be removed using pumps to convey free water through temporary pipes in various areas. The primary area of free water dewatering is the existing South Pond area. Stormwater collected in other areas of the pond will be dewatered throughout construction as needed. These flows will be directed to the south Clear Pool area, and then to the temporary Water Treatment Facility for treatment prior to discharge to the Black Warrior River. The details of the Water Treatment system are described later.

Interstitial dewatering refers to the removal of subsurface water within the saturated CCR material. This dewatering requires lowering phreatic water levels to improve material handling for excavation and transport. Removal of interstitial water will likely require both passive and active methods of drainage. Interstitial dewatering could consist of a combination of the following systems: (1) open rim and cross/bleeder ditches with gravity drainage, (2) open pits and trenching with pumping from sumps, (3) wet stacking of CCR material to allow interstitial water to drain to sumps and pumped to Clear Pool areas for removal, (4) installation of gravity toe drains, and (5) well point or deep well systems. The use of wellpoint and/or deep well systems are not currently anticipated but would be implemented if necessary for deeper excavations. The toe drains will flow to a sump and then will be pumped to the southern Clear Pool.

Open dewatering and gravity drainage is a passive method that is generally used to dewater ash ponds. Open dewatering and gravity drainage are generally sufficient to dewater ash ponds that contain coarser bottom ash or a mixture of bottom and fly ash and can be used in conjunction with constructed haul roads or working platforms to facilitate CCR excavation and hauling. For this project, gravity dewatering will mainly consist of the following key components: rim ditches, settling ponds, bleeder ditches, capillary break layers, toe drains, and stacking/casting/windrowing.

Excavation of rim and bleeder ditches is planned to start interstitial water removal. Rim ditches are excavated within the CCR material using long-reach track-hoes around the perimeter of the ash pond. Bleeder ditches

will be excavated laterally from the rim ditches using long reach track-hoes on a prescribed spacing to reduce the porewater pressure and phreatic surface within the CCR material. This will allow for mass excavation of CCR material. Excavated CCR material will be stacked parallel to the excavation, surcharging the ash below the stack, aiding in dewatering and recovery in the next excavation. Depending on the water withdrawal rates and effectiveness of the initial trenches, excavation of additional drainage ditches across the pond may be necessary. Settling ponds will be excavated in concurrence with the rim ditch installation to allow the heavy solids to fall out before reaching the Clear Pool.

To expedite interstitial water dewatering and construction stormwater management, a capillary break drainage system may also be considered for the ash excavation/placement around the interior dike. The drainage system will help relieve pore water pressure in the underlying ash as the weight of earthwork filling is applied. The drainage system would consist of coarse-graded sandy material or an equivalent free-flowing granular material. This perimeter drain system would continue to function to relieve interstitial water and help collect contact stormwater until the final impervious cover system is installed at the end of the closure construction.

The gravity dewatering onsite may include a toe drain system installed at the bottom of ash excavation slopes. Toe drains allow for a more direct means of gravity dewatering along an ash excavation slope. The typical construction would consist of over excavation at the base of the slope, followed by stone and perforated piping to create a French drain system.

For dewatering of wetter ash across the site, especially in the southern end of the pond, utilization of stacking & casting methods is anticipated. With this approach, ash with higher moisture content will be excavated and stacked in piles to allow for gravity drainage. A similar technique of windrowing may be used throughout the site. This technique involves spreading the wet ash in thin lifts and rowing/tilling the ash to allow the moisture to evaporate from the surface.

Combination of ballasted flocculation and filtration systems to treat and discharge both free and interstitial waters (site specific limits/constraints)

The temporary Water Treatment Facility is installed on the southern portion of the exterior dike, west of the existing riser structure and outlet pipe, adjacent to the South Pond, and is rated for 2,000 gpm. The treatment system is skid mounted, and includes the following treatment steps:

- Water is pumped from the ash pond and treated with coagulant, polymer, bleach, and caustic
- Water is then pumped to a mix tank
- From there the water is pumped to three ballasted flocculation clarifiers
- Sand is added to the ballast to allow precipitation and clarification to occur
- Final solids removal using two media filters for polishing
- Solids are collected and dewatered and placed within the consolidated area for disposal

Constituent concentrations are monitored, and effluent water is discharged through the permitted outfall if numerical limits set in the permit are in compliance.

Drawdown guidance regarding dike integrity

In general, the maximum drawdown rate of free water within the ash pond against the exterior dike is initially limited to one foot per week. Maximum allowable pumping and phreatic drawdown rates may be increased to two feet per week if daily inspections of the existing ash pond dike performance indicate no adverse impacts on the integrity of the dike at the higher drawdown rate, subject to review and approval by the Owner and Engineer. In addition, the following criteria apply:

- The “per week” dewatering rate can be applied over a rolling 7-day period as opposed to strictly a calendar week basis.
- The daily dewatering rate within this 7-day rolling period should not exceed 6 inches per day.
- In the event rainfall or other sources temporarily raise the free water pool elevation during the closure construction process, an increased dewatering rate is acceptable as long as the temporary rise can be lowered back to prior levels within 7 days. This is based on the premise that saturation of the earthen embankment will likely not occur within this time frame.

ii. Liquids Management

Plant Greene County has an NPDES permit (AL0002917) which regulates discharges from plant operations as well as dewatering activities from the ash pond closure. A temporary Water Treatment Facility that will treat wastewater throughout the dewatering process is installed on the southern portion of the exterior dike and is rated for 2,000 gpm. Water within the pond will be managed by collecting it in sump areas and conveying it to Clear Pool locations using pumps and HDPE piping during each phase of the project construction. It is anticipated that pump locations will be able to process all free water, stormwater, and drained interstitial waters that accumulate within work areas. Pump locations are strategically placed and will be relocated throughout the phase of work as water collection areas shift within phase limits. Free water collected during construction can also be used for dust control. If additional water is required for dust control, it will be obtained from the discharge channel in accordance with the existing permit requirements.

During larger storm events (i.e., a 25-year event), stormwater and contact water captured within the ash pond will be conveyed to the south pond area. This water will be treated prior to discharge to the Black Warrior River. Because the existing exterior dike will remain both during and after closure, the ash pond will be able to adequately manage flow resulting from a 1,000-year storm event.

As the final cover is placed, precipitation will be segregated from contact water by containing runoff from closed ash areas to reduce the volume of water that must be treated by the temporary Water Treatment Facility. This water can also be used for dust control.

iii. CCR Removal Activities

Prior to completion of the final closure design, a geotechnical investigation was completed that included the following activities:

- Review of available drawings used to construct the ash pond
- Preliminary existing ground elevations prior to construction using multiple sources
- Drilling and sampling of CCR material at multiple locations using drill rigs with hollow stem augers, as well as cone penetrometer testing methods to determine CCR material properties, and to determine the location of the CCR/soil interface
- Standard penetration testing to estimate in-situ ash strengths
- Installation of groundwater monitoring wells, both inside and outside the ash pond
- Use of this data to model the phreatic surface within the ash pond and estimate effective strategies for dewatering, in concert with experience gained from previous ash pond closures

This collective body of data contained in the Site Characterization Report (Wood, 2017) and Site Characterization Report Addendum (Wood, 2018), was used to estimate the bottom of ash surface and determine preliminary excavation depths and CCR volumes by 3-D computer modeling. Depth of CCR to be removed is variable, with an approximate excavation depth of 0-30 feet below existing grade.

The final design involves a strategy to consolidate and isolate the CCR material within a diked area and barrier wall keyed to a low permeability chalk layer beneath the ash pond. The final cover, consisting of a combination geomembrane and engineered synthetic product will limit percolation of precipitation in the CCR material. The existing exterior dike will remain during and after closure activities are completed. The replacement discharge structure will be equipped with a valve used as backflow prevention when the river elevation rises above the outfall elevation. The lowest elevation of the exterior dike is higher than the 100-year elevation of the river. After ash pond closure, the valve will be opened to allow the river to fill the area between the interior and exterior ponds when the river elevation is elevated. The interior dike (and northern portion of the exterior dike) surrounding the closed ash area has a minimum finish grade elevation of 101 feet. This will provide protection from the river when it is elevated.

iv. CCR Removal Verification Protocol

CCR Removal Verification Method

The ash pond closure design includes excavation of CCR in some areas, thus requiring verification and documentation that CCR have been removed. Construction Quality Assurance (CQA) personnel will document removal of CCR material. The CCR removal verification procedure is outlined in the CQA Plan and as summarized below.

1. For CCR removal preparation and prior to CCR removal, the following steps shall be performed:
 - Review topographic mapping, aerial photography, and boring logs to estimate the pre-placement topography and/or CCR/soil interface.
 - Prepare a CCR unit map illustrating a grid spacing of 100 feet for excavation areas. Each grid point will be assigned a unique alphanumeric label for reference and documentation of CCR removal verification.
2. Steps to visually verify CCR removal:
 - A system of grid points will be established and used as described.
 - CCR will be excavated until there is no visible CCR present. This surface will be referred to as the bottom of ash pond.

- CQA personnel will locate each grid point and determine the elevation.
- CQA personnel will observe and document the surface area represented by the grid point to note if visible CCR is present at the surface. If CCR is present, the location will be documented, and CCR removal continued until no CCR is visible.
- If the observations and evaluations above indicate visual CCR is not present at the final excavated surface for the grid point, CQA personnel may conclude the primary source is removed at that location.

After the CCR removal is verified, the following actions will be taken:

- The bottom of ash pond surface will be surveyed and recorded.
- The excavation will then continue to a depth of 6 inches below the bottom of ash pond surface. This surface will be referred to as the bottom of excavation. Excavated soil will be placed in the on-site CCR consolidated footprint closure area or disposed of at an approved off-site landfill.
- The color of the exposed soil will then be specified by CQA Personnel and documented by using the Munsell color system, one per acre and each change in soil color per area being certified.
- At least one hand auger probe (or Geoprobe) will be advanced to a depth of 12 inches below the final excavated subgrade for verification of color, with one sample being taken per acre and for each change in soil color.
- The bottom of excavation surface will be surveyed and confirmed to be a minimum of 6 inches below the bottom of ash pond surface.
- Once the removal is deemed complete with CQA approval for a given area, photographs will be taken to document condition of the subgrade. These photographs will be maintained at the site and will be available for review by project team members and ADEM personnel as necessary. After photo documentation and final CQA approval, the backfilling operations will commence.

v. CCR Placement and Compaction

As dewatering continues, CCR material will be excavated from the closure by removal areas and placed and compacted in horizontal lifts on top of the existing CCR material within the consolidation area.

As discussed previously, the CCR material will be dewatered in a systematic fashion prior to and during excavation activities, to maintain the phreatic surface below the working elevation of removal operations. For construction of the closed ash pond, it is expected that the CCR material will be handled multiple times prior to final placement and closure of the pond. CCR material will be stacked and dewatered to the proper moisture content prior to placement in the consolidation area. Materials are to be stockpiled separately; the expected material types are CCR fill, potential compacted soil cover material, topsoil, and spoils. The soil stockpiles will be staged outside of the ash pond limits. Spoils are to be stockpiled in a separate location from reusable materials. Dewatered CCR material will be loaded in off-road haul trucks for placement as fill in the consolidation area. Haul routes will be coordinated to maintain safe conditions during heavy equipment operation. The CCR material will be placed to rough grading elevations, graded using guided equipment, and smooth rolled to achieve surface condition and compaction requirements.

The distances traversed by construction equipment will vary by individual phase; however, in general, haul distances will be minimized because CCR material obtained from the closure by removal areas will be transported to the consolidation areas in a sequenced progression from north to south. The consolidated ash footprint within the closed ash pond is planned to be approximately 221 acres.

The design incorporates a very flat slope of three percent for the final cover and is inherently stable for the seismic hazards anticipated. An earthen dike, built to contain the CCR material, will be constructed in horizontal lifts and compacted to 95 percent standard Proctor density. A barrier wall will be constructed around the perimeter of the dike system, keyed into an underlying chalk layer. The perimeter dike and barrier wall system, in concert with the final cover, will minimize the presence of water within the consolidated ash area.

vi. Fugitive Dust Control Plan

This site has a variety of identified potential fugitive dust sources. The dust sources anticipated on this project include:

- CCR excavation in the drier portions of the impoundment
- Existing CCR areas not covered with vegetation
- Designated areas where CCR is being stockpiled for dewatering purposes
- Transfer of CCR from the excavation area to the fill area around the existing stack
- Transport of offsite borrow soil material to the designated stockpile area
- Borrow Material Stockpile Area(s)
- Transport of borrow soil material from the stockpile area to soil backfill areas onsite
- Placement of sand, hydro-binder, or similar products in the proposed CCR capped area

To combat fugitive dust during the excavation and placement of CCR, the Contractor will utilize a variety of methods including:

- Limiting the amount of area exposed at any one time
- Leaving existing vegetation in place as long as possible
- Minimizing the amount of CCR exposed at any one time
- Dispersion of water with water trucks and water wagons

The Contractor will implement procedural type controls which limit the amount of area exposed at any one time. Existing vegetation will be left in place as long as possible, minimizing the amount of ash exposed at any one time. Conventional dust control for the project will include the dispersion of water with water trucks and water wagons.

When practical and feasible, irrigation systems will be used to control dust in exposed areas where minimal construction activity is taking place. Water for the ongoing dust control efforts will be provided by multiple sources depending on which stage of construction. Sources of water will include free water, or contact water contained within sump areas and Clear Pool areas. If required, water can be withdrawn from the discharge channel. As the project progresses and CCR is covered with the designed final cover system there will be less volume of water required to combat dust. However, dust suppression will still need to be controlled until project completion. The owner and the Contractor will assess the effectiveness of fugitive dust control measures by performing visual observations of the ash pond and surrounding areas and implementing appropriate corrective actions, as necessary.

If fugitive dust complaints are received, the owner will document and investigate the complaint with the Contractor's cooperation. The Contractor will implement corrective actions as needed.

vii. Stormwater Management

As discussed previously, the stormwater system for the final cover system consists of a northern perimeter channel, terrace ditch, downslope channels, and interior dike perimeter ditch with outlet culverts. The stormwater system conveys non-contact stormwater from the final cover to the interior area between the interior and exterior dikes. From there, the non-contact stormwater will be conveyed to the discharge structure and then to the Black Warrior River.

viii. Equipment Decontamination

The CCR will be transported only within the boundary limits, and the equipment used for transportation will be stored in a prepared area of the ash pond. Prior to leaving the project, all equipment that has worked within the CCR limits will go through an extensive wash down process within the existing pond area to mitigate any CCR from the leaving the project.

Borrow soil material will be imported from offsite borrow areas for use on the project site. Whenever possible, the Contractor will deliver the borrow soil material directly to the location of the backfill operations and make every effort to keep the delivery trucks from coming into contact with CCR material. Trucks entering and leaving the site will travel through an established construction exit and will be checked for CCR contamination prior to leaving the impoundment.

ix. Site Security

Plant Greene County is an active generating facility. Security for the facility and ash pond are provided by Alabama Power Company (APC). Personnel requesting access to the site must follow established procedures required by APC. Site access is from a single point, and controlled by security personnel.

x. Groundwater Monitoring

A groundwater monitoring plan was submitted with the original Greene County Ash Pond permit application. Please refer to Appendix 8 of the original permit application.

xi. Operational Inspections

Inspections will be conducted by a Qualified Person at intervals not exceeding 7 days to look for appearances of structural weakness and for proper operation of all outlet structures maintained for use during closure. Furthermore, an annual inspection will continue to be conducted by a qualified Professional Engineer throughout the closure process.

d. Closure Design Features

i. Interior Dike

The interior dike will be constructed of specified soil material. The interior dike is designed to structurally contain the CCR material within the

specified footprint. Furthermore, the dike is designed to protect the barrier wall from any inundation of the former ash pond area.

ii. **Barrier Wall**

A barrier wall will be constructed within the footprint of the interior dike, as well as a portion of the northern dike where CCR material will be consolidated within the mound. The barrier wall is designed to use a Bentonite slurry that is a low permeable material. The Bentonite slurry will be installed extending from the underlying chalk surface to the top of the portion of the containment dike to the cover system. This design of the barrier wall limits the movement of interstitial water through the constructed interior dike and existing northern dike. The barrier wall will be constructed utilizing two primary methods: slurry wall construction, along a portion of the existing northern dike and a one-pass construction method within the interior dike.

iii. **Final Grades**

The closed ash pond will be graded with a nominal slope of three percent, with a bench approximately halfway down the slope. Variance from slope requirements of r. 335-13-15-.07(3)(d)3.(i)(V) will be requested.

iv. **Final Cover System**

The final cover system consists of the following (described from the final ash surface upwards):

- CCR surface that is brought up to design grade
- 3-6" of imported protective soil.
- A linear low density polyethylene (LLDPE) geomembrane
- An engineered synthetic turf product
- Sand infill material

The final cover system materials are interlocking with either overlapping seams or welded together to form a continuous barrier. This final cover system is designed to protect the ash surface from wind and rain as well as to prevent rainwater from percolating into the contained ash. The synthetic cover is trafficable by vehicles and does not need mowing.

Approximately 55 acres will be installed in each of four phases of final cover construction.

v. **Stormwater Management System**

A terrace ditch will be constructed approximately halfway between the interior dike and the top of the mounded CCR material, and will collect stormwater from the upper portion. Downslope ditches will then be installed intermittently along the terrace ditch to convey stormwater to a perimeter ditch adjacent to the interior dike. Aggregate fill underlain by

geotextile material will then be installed within the downslope ditches to complete the system.

HDPE pipes will be installed and penetrate through the interior dike to discharge storm water into the ponded area between the interior and exterior dikes. The HDPE pipes will be booted to the LLDPE geomembrane to provide a watertight connection, and the turf will be wrapped around the HDPE pipes.

A perimeter ditch will be graded along the northern portion the exterior dike to collect stormwater runoff from the northern portion of the final cover. This runoff will be discharged through HDPE pipes installed through the interior dike and into the ponded area between the interior and exterior dikes.

To discharge water from the ponded area, a discharge structure will be built at the southern end of the pond, to replace the existing outlet structure.

The outlet structure will also consist of a gate valve and stop log system, supplied by Plasti-Fab that will be installed during the discharge structure construction.

vi. Final Site Stabilization

Final stabilization of the ash removal area will be achieved by hydroseeding any disturbed areas requiring seeding. Areas requiring seeding include the outer slopes of exterior dike, along the outer toe where disturbed (inside the limits of disturbance), and the Contractor laydown area on the east dike after the closure turf is installed. Upon completion of the final grading of this area, hydroseeding will immediately begin to minimize erosion.

e. Final Cover System

The prescriptive final cover system defined under §257.102(d)(3)(i) and r. 335-13-15-.07(3)(d)3.(i) consists of, from top to bottom:

- A 0.5 foot thick (minimum) erosion layer consisting of earthen material capable of sustaining native plant growth; and
- A 1.5 foot thick (minimum) infiltration layer with a hydraulic conductivity less than or equal to that of any bottom liner system of underlying natural subsoils present, or a hydraulic conductivity no greater than 1×10^{-7} cm/s, whichever is less.

An alternative final cover system defined under §257.102(d)(3)(ii) and r. 335-13-15-.07(3)(d)3.(ii) must include, from top to bottom:

- An erosion layer providing equivalent protection from wind or water erosion as the erosion layer for the prescriptive final cover; and
- An infiltration layer that achieves an equivalent reduction in infiltration as the infiltration layer for the prescriptive final cover.

EPRI (2017) prepared a technical report to study the performance of the prescriptive final cover system (i.e., the minimum requirements) and compare the results to other types of final covers, including alternative final covers consisting of a geomembrane overlain by a synthetic turf product. Unlike the prescriptive cover system, there are no thickness or hydraulic conductivity criteria specified in the CCR Rule for an alternative final cover system. Instead, the performance of the site-specific alternative design must be demonstrated to be equivalent to the prescriptive minimum design. A geomembrane limits the infiltration through a cover system to holes within the geomembrane, which make up only a small fraction of the cover system area, the calculated infiltration through a cover system with a geomembrane underlain by a semi-impermeable soil (e.g., with a hydraulic conductivity of 1×10^{-4} cm/s) is significantly less compared with the infiltration through the prescriptive final cover.

ClosureTurf® has been selected as the final cover for the ash pond closure at Plant Greene County. The final cover design incorporates a 50 mil linear low density polyethylene (LLDPE) geomembrane overlain by a synthetic turf product. The turf product consists of a woven geomembrane with tufts of synthetic turf manufactured from high density polyethylene (HDPE). Sand infill material is placed on the turf, which provides protection of the underlying geotextile material from ultraviolet (UV) rays. The sand infill is designed using angular manufactured aggregate with a low percentage of fines; thus the sand infill, in concert with the synthetic turf, can resist erosion and minimize the need for maintenance. Use of the LLDPE geomembrane overlain by the turf exhibits the following characteristics:

- Achieves a higher degree of infiltration control than a prescriptive cover;
- Minimizes erosion. Testing has shown that a low percentage of sand infill loss occurs over time;
- The LLDPE geomembrane can tolerate small differential settlements;
- For the ash pond closure at Plant Greene County, slope stability is not an issue because the final slope is a nominal three percent; the LLDPE geomembrane has sufficient friction resistance for this relatively flat slope;
- The geomembrane and turf is quicker to install compared with a compacted clay layer incorporated into the final cover;
- Maintenance is less than prescriptive cover. The synthetic turf surface does not require annual maintenance typical of prescriptive covers (i.e., mowing, adding fertilizer, or watering during periods of drought).

f. [Achievement of Closure Performance Standards](#)

The ash pond closure is designed to achieve Closure Performance Standards When Leaving CCR in Place (ADEM Standards for the Disposal of Coal Combustion Residuals in Landfills and Surface Impoundments, Chapter 335-13-15-.07(3)(d) and 40 CFR § 257.102(d)). Free water will be

removed, and interstitial water will be lowered to accomplish the CCR removal from the closure by removal areas and to close in a consolidated footprint.

With the installation of the final cover system on the consolidated footprint in concert with installation of a perimeter earthen dike and barrier wall, the post-closure infiltration of liquids into the waste and releases of CCR, leachate, contaminated run-off to the ground or surface waters or to the atmosphere will be accomplished to the maximum extent practicable.

The grading will not allow the future impounding of water or sediment on the closed ash pond. The design utilizes appropriate final cover slopes, terraces and stormwater controls to meet the performance criteria.

The engineered turf final cover system allows for closure in shortest amount of time while minimizing erosion and maintenance post closure. The final cover system also has a lower hydraulic conductivity than conventional soil cover systems thereby reducing infiltration to maintain a stable CCR fill.

An Assessment of Corrective Measures (ACM) for the Plant Greene County Ash Pond was placed in the Plant's Operating Record in June 2019 and submitted to the Department in July 2019. The development of the ACM considered the planned closure approach which will include dewatering, consolidating the footprint of the ash, and constructing a cover system over the consolidated footprint that meets the requirements of r. 335-13-15-.07(3)(d). In addition, a barrier wall keyed into the low-permeability Demopolis Chalk will be installed along the new interior dike system that will contain the consolidated footprint. This hydraulic barrier will be connected to the geomembrane of the final cover system. These actions will effectively control the source of CCR constituents to groundwater by removing free water and some interstitial water from the ash, reducing the footprint area of the ash and preventing further infiltration of surface water resulting from rainfall through the ash. Removal of the free liquid will reduce the volume of water available to flow from the Ash Pond during and after closure, while also minimizing the hydraulic head driving water through the subsurface.

Outside the consolidated footprint, ash will be excavated to remove all visible ash and a minimum of 6 inches of the underlying subgrade soils, thereby removing the source from these areas. The cover system that will be constructed over the consolidated footprint will have a permeability several magnitudes lower than the permeability of the natural clay subsoils beneath the impoundment, reducing the likelihood of future migration of water through the ash below the cover.

At the present time, a combination of the closure process, source control measures and groundwater control discussed above along with Monitored Natural Attenuation and adaptive site management are anticipated to provide the necessary remedy for this facility. However, in an adaptive site management process, system performance is monitored, and one or more of the technologies identified in the ACM will be used to supplement the

remedy as needed if the selected approach is not performing as intended or corrective action goals are not met. If necessary, modifications to the closure plan may also be amended or supplemented to include other protective measures.

5. Maximum Inventory of CCR § 257.102(b)(1)(iv),(iii) and r. 335-13-15-.07(3)(b)1.(i),(iv)

The Report of Annual Inspection of CCR Surface Impoundment for Plant Greene County for 2019 reports the approximate volume of CCR is 10,300,000 cubic yards.

6. Largest Area Requiring Final Cover – § 257.102(B)(1)(V) AND R. 335-13-15-.07(3)(B)1.(V)

Per closure drawing GRN_3.2.4_600, the final cover area will be 221 acres.

7. Schedule for Completing Closure Activities – § 257.102(B)(1)(Vi) AND R. 335-13-15-.07(3)(B)1.(Vi)

The following closure activities are included in the schedule.

Mobilization – February 2019

Site Preparation – May 2019

Clear Pool Drawdown – August 2019

Phase 1 Construction – March 2019 thru July 2021

Phase 2 Construction – December 2020 thru January 2022

Phase 3 Construction – September 2021 thru May 2023

Phase 4 Construction – December 2022 thru April 2024

Phase 5 Construction – January 2024 thru August 2025

Ash Pond Discharge Structure – December 2019

Gas Line Removal – January 2023

8. Certification of Closure

The Contractor shall retain the services of an approved independent Construction Quality Control (CQC) Team to perform specified inspection and testing throughout the construction. The Owner's Construction Quality Assurance (CQA) Team will verify conformance of the materials, testing and constructed work with the specifications.

In accordance with §257.102(h) and r. 335-13-15-.07(3)(h), within 30 days of completion of closure of the CCR unit, the owner or operator will prepare a notification of closure of the CCR unit. The notification will include the certification by a qualified professional engineer licensed in the State of Alabama verifying that closure has been completed in accordance with the closure plan as required by 335-13-15-.07(3)(b) including the

submittal of a Final Certification Report. The Final Certification Report will serve as the permanent record of the completed construction for the ash closure so as to assure regulatory agencies that the components were constructed in substantial accordance with the State permits, CQA Plan and any construction-level specifications and drawings. The owner or operator has completed the notification when it has been submitted to the Department and placed in the facility's operating record.

The Final Certification Report is anticipated to include the following:

1. Certification Letter containing a certification from the CQA engineer working on the project, registered to practice in the State of Alabama, that the project was performed in accordance with the Closure Plan permit and any construction-level specifications and drawings
2. Pond Closure Technical Specifications
3. As applicable, associated permits and filings, such as Notice of Intent (NOI), and any local permits
4. Soil, CCR, and any other material laboratory test results
5. Onsite and off-site borrow source test results that support acceptance of borrow soils
6. Subgrade Proofroll Acceptance Forms with required signatures
7. Soil, CCR, concrete and any other material field test results
8. CCR Fill Density Test Summary and test locations
9. Soil Fill Density Test Summary and test locations
10. One Point Proctor and Drive Tube Density Summary
11. Sand infill material testing results, thickness and test locations
12. Manufacturer's Quality Control Certifications
 - a. Geosynthetic materials
 - b. Engineered turf
 - c. HDPE pipe
 - d. Geotextile
 - e. Extrusion welding rods
13. Close by Removal Certification
14. Geomembrane Installation Logs
 - a. Geomembrane Panel Deployment Log
 - b. Geomembrane Repair Log
 - c. Geomembrane Seaming and Testing Log
 - d. Geomembrane Trial Seam Log
 - e. Geomembrane Destructive Samples Laboratory Results
15. Certification Subgrade Surveys
16. Daily CQC Field Monitoring Reports
17. Daily CQA Field Reports
18. Record As-Built Drawings
 - a. Geomembrane As-Built Drawings
 - b. Periodic Topographic Survey
 - c. Top of Subgrade As-Built Drawings
19. Certifications for quality control

APC will also submit confirmation that a notation on the property deed has been recorded in accordance with r. 335-13-15-.07(3)(h)(i).

9. Directional Informational Signs

During construction, controlled access points will have necessary signage. Post-construction, signs prohibiting individuals from driving on the closure turf will be posted. Signs will be also be posted at the entrance gate to the facility notifying users of the closed CCR pond. Contact information will be provided on the sign.

10. Vegetative Plan

The engineered synthetic turf product specified as a component of the final cover system will eliminate the need to seed the final cover. The outer slopes of the interior dike, and the inner slopes of the exterior dike will be lined with riprap underlain by geotextile fabric. The outer portion of the exterior dike will continue to be vegetated with grass. The current plan is to allow the area between the interior and exterior dikes to maintain stormwater runoff from the closed ash area as a pond. The water level will be controlled by stoplogs installed in the discharge structure.

11. Site Equipment Needed

The Contractor selected to perform closure construction will be responsible for all equipment needed during the construction period. For post-closure care, Alabama Power will provide all necessary company owned, leased or contracted equipment needed to perform maintenance and any necessary repairs.

12. Sediment Removal

During closure, accumulated sediment in the closure by removal area will be contained within the exterior dike, excavated, and disposed within the consolidation area.

Post-Closure, accumulated sediment will be removed on a periodic basis when necessary from collection ditches, diversion ditches and other drainage structures.

13. Erosion and Sediment Control

Outside the limits of the ash pond

Upon mobilization, initial layout will begin to establish the limits of disturbance. Once limits are identified, silt fence, waddles, and other BMP's will be installed around the job site as identified on the Erosion & Sediment Control drawings.

During construction of the barrier wall within the northern portion of the exterior dike, additional erosion and sediment controls will be installed along the outside of the exterior dike as shown on the drawings. Silt fencing, and other best management practices will be installed to limit erosion and contain sediment. After completion of the barrier wall installation, the dike will be seeded and erosion control matting installed to facilitate stabilization of this area post-closure.

Within the Ash Pond during closure

During the early phases of the project, the existing discharge structure will be removed and replaced with a new discharge structure. The location is to be dewatered prior to exterior dike excavation for the construction of the new structure. CCR in the area will be removed and placed within the consolidation area. Ash removal is to be in accordance with the specification section 312000. A double row of silt fencing will be installed prior to

excavation of the pipe trench. After silt fence placement, embankment excavation will begin, excavated materials will be stockpiled for reuse, silt fence placed around the stockpile, and temporary sediment traps installed. The discharge structure and outlet pipe will be installed at this time. The structure and pipe will be backfilled and compacted to 95 percent standard proctor density in accordance with ASTM D698. Erosion sediment control blankets and silt fence will be installed on the embankment.

14. Cost of Closure

Through coordination with the engineering design team and the subcontractor selected to execute the closure activities, the estimated cost of closing Plant Greene County's ash pond is approximately \$330 million. The estimate is considered to be at control level with a high level of project definition. However, due to the complexity, quantities, and duration of the overall project, some variability in costs is expected. Additional expenses of post closure care, maintenance, and corrective action are currently estimated at \$32 million. Fully detailed long-term maintenance and corrective action strategies have not yet been determined which have the potential to influence current estimates.

Some of the most significant cost items include:

- Water management including contact and noncontact water;
- ClosureTurf® cover system;
- Construction management and construction quality control (CQC);
- Offsite fill materials such as soil and clay fill, gravel and riprap;
- Barrier wall construction;
- Excavation, placement, compaction, and grading of CCR into the consolidated footprint;
- Construction quality assurance (CQA);
- Dust control management;
- Engineering support; and
- General contingency and inflation on construction items.

15. Closure Schedule

The closure of Plant Greene County's ash pond is expected to exceed the closure activity timeline of five years (§ 257.102(f)(1)(ii) and r. 335-13-15-.07(3)(f)1.(ii)) and is expected to require the allowable two-year extensions to complete the closure due to the excavation, placement, compaction, and grading of approximately 4,000,000 cubic yards of CCR and underlying soil. The ash pond closure is currently expected to be completed in 2025. Table 1 contains a summary level schedule for this project.

16. Recordkeeping/Notification/Internet Requirements

As outlined in § 257.105 and r. 335-13-15-.08(1), each Owner or Operator of a CCR unit subject to the Department regulations must maintain files of certain information in an operating record at the facility. Each file is to be retained for at least five years following the date of each occurrence, measurement, maintenance, corrective action, report, record or study. Electronic storage of the records is acceptable. These records are to be made available to the Department upon request.

Certain notifications are to be made in accordance with the requirements of § 257.106 and r. 335-13-15-.08(2). In many instances, such notifications are to be placed in the facility's Operating Record. In certain instances, further notifications are to be made to the Department Director within 30 days of placement of a notification into the Operating Records. Furthermore, a publicly accessible internet site must be established for posting of certain notifications and compliance information within 30 days of it being placed in the Operating Record.

Alabama Power and Plant Greene County maintain an electronic Operating Record for the facility. In addition, a publicly accessible internet site has already been established for compliance with EPA's CCR Rule. Required notifications and compliance data, as outlined in § 257.105 through § 257.107 and r. 335-13-15-.08 and as applicable to the Plant Greene County Ash Pond, will be maintained in the electronic Operating Record, and as required, made available on the publicly accessible internet site within 30 days of placement in the Operating Record. Furthermore, required notifications will be made to the Department Director within 30 days of placement in the Operating Record.

Certain plans and assessments are required to be updated at specified intervals and/or upon modification of certain components of the facility. If and when applicable, updates will be made to the respective plans and assessments, and notifications placed in the Operating Record, posted to the publicly accessible internet site, and communicated in writing to the Department Director in accordance with the Department rules.

17. Written Post-Closure Plan

40 CFR § 257.104 and ADEM Administrative Code r. 335-13-15-.07(5) require the owner or operator of an existing CCR surface impoundment that is closed in place to provide for post-closure care of the unit for a period of at least 30 years. Post-closure care includes maintenance of the facility, as well as groundwater monitoring in accordance with § 257.90 through § 257.98 and r. 335-13-15-.06(1) through r. 335-13-15-.06(9).

The Plant Greene County Ash Pond is currently expected to be closed in place under performance standards outlined in § 257.102(d) and r. 335-13-15-.07(3)(d). Following closure, maintenance will be provided on the final cover system for the required post-closure care period so that the integrity and effectiveness of the final cover system will be maintained. Maintenance activities will include, as needed, repairs to the final cover to correct any effects related to settlement, subsidence, erosion or other events, and will be performed to prevent run-on or run-off from eroding or otherwise damaging the final cover. Maintenance tasks could include, but not be limited to, repair of subsidence or erosion features, replacement of sand in-fill within the synthetic turf and re-establishment of vegetation, where applicable. Maintenance will be performed on a semi-annual schedule, or more frequently if needed.

The groundwater monitoring system will be maintained throughout the required post-closure care period. Groundwater monitoring will be performed on a semiannual basis during the required post-closure care period as well.

The following office(s) can be contacted about the facility during the post-closure care period.

Plant Greene County
Compliance and Support Manager
P.O. Box 440, Demopolis, AL 36740
1-334-289-6100
G2CCRPstGRE@southernco.com

At the present time, there is no planned use of the facility after closure. If current plans change, they will be noted in an amendment to this post-closure care plan. Any future use of the property after closure will not disturb the integrity of the final cover, liner or any other component of the containment system. Furthermore, the functionality of the groundwater monitoring system will be maintained.

No later than 60 days following completion of the post-closure care period of 30 years, Alabama Power Company will prepare a notification verifying completion of the post-closure care.

References

EPRI, 2017, *Alternative Cover Systems for Coal Combustion Residuals Landfills and Surface Impoundments*, EPRI, Palo Alto, CA, 2017. 3002010902

Wood, 2017, Site Characterization Report Alabama Power Company – Plant Greene County Forkland, Alabama, December 7, 2017
Wood, 2018, Site Characterization Report Addendum Alabama Power Company – Plant Greene County Forkland, Alabama, December 4, 2018