

Annual Report-02
Alternative Closure Requirements
Bottom Ash Pond

Northeastern Power Station
Public Service Company of Oklahoma
Oologah, OK

April 2021

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Alternative Closure Requirements-BAP
Solid Waste Permit No: none
NPS, Oologah, OK

1.0 BACKGROUND

The Northeastern Power Station is owned and operated by the Public Service Company of Oklahoma (PSO), a subsidiary of American Electric Power (AEP). The power station operates a 72-acre coal combustion residual (CCR) surface impoundment for the management of bottom ash and non-CCR wastewaters. The surface impoundment, referenced as the Bottom Ash Pond (BAP), fails the Location Restriction Requirements as per the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality (ODEQ) CCR regulations OAC 252:517 and is subject to the closure requirements of OAC 252:517-15-6(b)(1).

AEP/PSO submitted to Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality (ODEQ) on December 5, 2018 a demonstration to close the bottom ash pond according to the Alternate Closure Requirement (ACR) in OAC 252:517-15-8(b), Permanent cessation of a coal fired boiler(s) by a date certain. On February 8, 2013, a settlement agreement was signed between AEP/PSO and the Department of Justice which set a closure date of December 31, 2026 for the coal-fired boiler Unit 3. The ACR was accepted by ODEQ on April 11, 2019.

2.0 PURPOSE

This annual report is required by OAC 252:517-15-8(c)(2)(B) to be submitted no later than twelve (12) months after completing the first annual progress reports, which was submitted April 30, 2020. The report reaffirms PSO's statements that there is no alternative disposal capacity for the bottom ash and non-CCR wastewaters generated by the power plant.

This Report-02 covers the period from: April 12, 2020 – April 11, 2021.

3.0 PROGRESS

The bottom ash handling system operates as a wet-sludge of bottom ash to the BAP for settling of the bottom ash. Non-CCR wastewaters and industrial storm water runoff are also discharged to the BAP for treatment.

The existing ponds, excluding the BAP, on the plant site do not meet the requirements of OAC 252:517 regulations and cannot be used as a CCR surface impoundment. Additionally, these ponds do not have the treatment capacity required for the volume of non-CCR wastewaters and industrial storm water runoff generated at the power plant site.

There are no piping/pumping system present in which this wastewater stream could be transported to an offsite treatment facility and transporting this volume of CCR wastewater via trucking is not physically possible. There are no off-site ponds that could be used for the wet sluicing and treatment of industrial wastewaters. Additionally, the on-site CCR ash landfill is not permitted to accept the process waters.

AEP/PSO certifies that Northeastern Power Station will cease operation of Unit 3 coal-fired boiler by December 31, 2026 and that the BAP will be closed no later than October 27, 2028.

AEP/PSO was in compliance with all relevant requirements of OAC 252:517, including the semi-annual groundwater sampling and testing during this report period. The results are summarized in the report, "Annual Groundwater Monitoring Report" that was submitted to ODEQ on January 31, 2021. No corrective action is required at this time.

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AEP/PSO continues to work towards completing the permitting process for the BAP. No alternative capacity for the CCR and non-CCR wastewater to replace that of the BAP has been found.

4.0 PLANNED WORK

AEP/PSO will follow the schedule defined in the Revised (May 2019) Closure Plan for the BAP.

AEP/PSO will continue to ensure that the BAP remains in compliance with all relevant requirements of OAC 252:517 including the sampling and analyses all of the monitoring wells as part of OAC 252:517 Subchapter 9 requirements.

AEP will submit another progress report by April 30, 2022.