Cynthia Vodopivec Dynegy Midwest Generation, LLC 6555 Sierra Dr. Irving, TX 75039

April 2, 2025

Mr. Frank Behan Environmental Protection Agency Office of Resource Conservation & Recovery Materials Recovery & Waste Management Division 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. Washington, DC 20460

Re: Baldwin Power Station Alternative Closure Demonstration - Update to Schedule and Closure Plan

Dear Mr. Behan:

Dynegy Midwest Generation, LLC (Dynegy) hereby submits this update to the closure schedule and closure plan associated with the alternative closure demonstration for the Baldwin Power Station near Baldwin, Illinois. As detailed in the alternative closure demonstration submitted to EPA on November 30, 2020, Dynegy requested an extension pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 257.103(f)(2) so that the Bottom Ash Pond may continue to receive CCR and non-CCR wastestreams after April 11, 2021, and complete closure no later than October 17, 2028. Under 40 C.F.R. 257.103(f)(2)(iv)(B), "the coal-fired boiler(s) must cease operation, and the CCR surface impoundment must complete closure no later than October 17, 2028."

As described in the alternative closure demonstration, based on available information at the time, Dynegy projected that Units 1 and 2 at the Baldwin Power station would cease operation by December 31, 2025. However, due to recent reliability and market conditions in MISO, Dynegy now projects that Units 1 and 2 will be in operation until no later than December 31, 2027. This update is consistent with § 257.103(f)(2)(iv)(B), which requires that "the coal-fired boiler(s) must cease operation ... no later than October 17, 2028."

Updating the boiler cessation date will have no impact on the pond closure schedule (which is scheduled to begin in two phases starting in 2025), the absence of alternative disposal capacity both on and off-site of the facility, the risk mitigation plan, the groundwater monitoring system, or closure plan. Dynegy is providing an updated Section 6.0 and Table 6-1 contained in the original alternative closure application that was submitted to EPA in November 2020, which reflects boiler cessation by December 31, 2027 and completion of pond closure by October 17, 2028. See Attachment 1.

Furthermore, DMG submitted a construction permit application to the Illinois EPA on August 1, 2023 for closure of the bottom ash pond pursuant to the Illinois CCR program, and the closure methodology in that application is consistent with the new planned boiler cessation date. The Illinois closure application remains pending. In August 2023, we submitted a letter to USEPA indicating that we updated our federal closure plan under 40 C.F.R. § 257.102 to incorporate the proposal submitted to Illinois EPA in our construction permit application. On March 25, 2025, we submitted an update to Illinois EPA, indicating that the boiler cessation date in the closure plan has changed and that the amount of CCR that will be generated before the plant retires has changed. See Attachment 2.

This submission and its attachments should be included by EPA as an update to the administrative record for the Baldwin alternative closure demonstration that is currently pending.

This letter and its attachments will be posted to Luminant's public CCR website: www.luminant.com/ccr/. If you have any questions regarding this submittal, please contact Phil Morris at 618-343-7794 or phil.morris@vistracorp.com.

Sincerely,

~ E. Vadur

Cynthia Vodopivec

SVP – Environmental, Health & Safety

Attachment 1 Updated Section 6.0 and Table 6-1 to Original Alternative Closure Application

6.0 DOCUMENTATION OF CLOSURE COMPLETION TIMEFRAME

To demonstrate that the criteria in § 257.103(f)(2)(iv) has been met, "the owner or operator must submit the closure plan required by § 257.102(b) and a narrative that specifies and justifies the date by which they intend to cease receipt of waste into the unit in order to meet the closure deadlines." The closure plan for the Bottom Ash Pond, along with an addendum, is included as Attachment 11.

In order for a CCR surface impoundment over 40 acres to continue to receive CCR and non-CCR wastestreams after the initial April 11, 2021, deadline, the coal-fired boiler(s) at the facility must cease operation and the CCR surface impoundment must complete closure no later than October 17, 2028. As discussed below, Baldwin will begin sitework to support the closure of the Bottom Ash Pond closure in the Spring of 2025, the remaining two boilers will cease coal-fired operations no later than December 31, 2027, and Baldwin will subsequently cease placing wastestreams into the Bottom Ash Pond in order for closure to be completed by this deadline.

Table 6-1 is included below to summarize the major tasks and durations associated with closing the Bottom Ash Pond in place. These durations are consistent with the durations experienced with the closure of approximately 500 acres of other CCR impoundments already completed by Dynegy and its affiliates to date as noted below:

- Baldwin Fly Ash Pond System 230 acres closed in-place with an approximate 30-month construction schedule
- Hennepin West Ash Ponds System 35 acres closed in-place with an approximate 24-month construction schedule (includes closure by removal of an adjacent 6-acre settling pond and installing a sheet pile wall)
- Hennepin East Ash Ponds 2 and 4 25 acres closed in-place with an approximate 6-month construction schedule
- Coffeen Ash Pond 2 60 acres closed in-place with an approximate 24-month construction schedule
- Duck Creek Ash Ponds 1 and 2 130 acres closed in-place with an approximate 24-month construction schedule

Each CCR impoundment closure indicated above utilized a closely coordinated passive or gravity dewatering method, which consisted of the use of trenches excavated to lower the phreatic surface in portions of the impoundment to obtain a stable ash surface to permit the safe construction of the final cover system. The phreatic water in the trenches flows by gravity to sumps constructed within the impoundment.

The major benefit associated with this passive or gravity dewatering method is that the sumps are designed to provide holding time to allow the TSS to settle within the impoundment prior to discharge (an active dewatering method with wells would result in potential discharges of unsettled TSS). After solids settling, the water is discharged through the NPDES outfall in compliance with permitted limits.

Construction progressed sequentially as the dewatering of an area stabilized the ash surface. The CCR was graded to subgrade level, then overlain with the compacted clay layers and/or geomembrane liners. Vegetative soil cover was then placed on top of the infiltration layer. As each section of the impoundment was closed, this sequencing progressed to the completion of the pond closure. A similar process will be utilized to close the Baldwin Bottom Ash Pond in order to allow the final open section of the impoundment to be large enough for the impoundment to remain in operation until the pond ceases the receipt of waste. This would provide sufficient time for closure to be completed by October 17, 2028.

The first construction effort will involve modifying the pond operations by relocating the influent lines, minimizing the pond water levels, and isolating flow to a smaller portion of the current 177-acre impoundment that can be closed during the last two construction seasons. The smaller active portion of the pond will remain in operation while Dynegy begins dewatering and closing the impoundment as described above. This reduction in footprint may require the addition of chemical feeds to provide adequate treatment but that has not been the case at our other sequenced closures. This approach simultaneously allows for continued operation of the plant to maintain generating capacity for the MISO markets and minimizes the risk to the environment both by minimizing the pond size and the potential for any impacts to groundwater and by opening up a significant portion of the remaining impoundment to allow for dewatering, grading, and closure (in Phase 1).

Table 6-1 provides estimates for the durations required to close a portion of pond footprint after the date noted to begin closure (Phase 1), as well as the estimates for the closure of the active area (Phase 2, remaining 40-50 acres). In order to dewater the closure area, Dynegy will likely release pond water through the existing Outfall 001.

Action	Estimated Timeline (Months)
Spec, bid, and Award Engineering Services for CCR Impoundment Closure	3
Finalize CCR unit closure plan and seek IEPA approval for CCR unit closure	8
Obtain environmental permits	21
 State Waste Pollution Control Construction/Operating Permit General NPDES Permit for Storm Water Discharges from Construction Site Activities and a SWPPP On July 31, 2023, the Baldwin Power Plant submitted a closure plan to Illinois EPA as part of its construction permit application pursuant to 35 Ill. Admin Code §845.220. On August 1, 2023, a notice was posted on Dynegy's public CCR website indicating that the closure plan under 40 C.F.R. § 257.102 was updated to incorporate the closure plan previously submitted to IEPA. The construction permit application before IEPA remains pending. 	
Spec, bid, and Award Construction Services for CCR Impoundment Closure	3
Sitework to Support Closure	Spring 2025
Minimize Active Area of Impoundment / Dewater Phase 1 Area	6
Regrade CCR Material in Phase 1 Area	18
Install Cover System – Phase 1 Area*	13
Establish Vegetation – Phase 1 Area**	2
Cease Coal-Fired Operations of Remaining Two Boilers Onsite (No Later Than)	December 31, 2027
Cease Placement of Waste (No Later Than, allowing for plant cleanup and dredging of other impoundments following coal pile and plant closure)	January 2028
Dewater Impoundment – Phase 2 Area	3
Regrade CCR Material – Phase 2 Area	4

Table 6-1: Baldwin Bottom Ash Pond Closure Schedule

Action	Estimated Timeline (Months)
Install Cover System – Phase 2 Area*	5
Establish Vegetation, Perform Site Restoration Activities, Complete Closure, and Initiate Post-Closure Care**	2
Total Estimated Time to Complete Closure	72 months (including design, permitting, and procurement)
Date by Which Closure Must be Complete	October 17, 2028

* Activity expected to overlap with grading operations, finishing 2 months after grading is completed

** Activity expected to overlap with cover system installation, finishing 1 month after cover installation is completed

Attachment 2 Closure Plan Update

Phil Morris Dynegy Midwest Generation, LLC 1500 Eastport Plaza Drive Collinsville, IL 62234

March 25, 2025

Illinois Environmental Protection Agency DWPC – Permits MC #15 Attn: Part 845 Coal Combustion Residual Rule Submittal 2520 West Iles Avenue Springfield, IL 62704

Re: Dynegy Midwest Generation, LLC - Baldwin Power Plant Bureau ID # W1578510001-06 CCR Surface Impoundment Construction Permit Application Supplement

Dynegy Midwest Generation, LLC (DMG) is hereby submitting a supplement to the closure construction permit application submitted on July 31, 2023. This letter serves as an addendum to the Closure Plan for the Bottom Ash Pond at the Baldwin Power Plant which was included in the Final Closure Plan found in Attachment G of the application.

At the time the permit application was submitted the remaining boilers at the Baldwin Power Plant were expected to permanently cease coal combustion by December 31, 2025. The submitted Closure Plan reflected the expected retirement date at the time of submittal. Subsequently, DMG recently announced plans to extend coal operations through 2027. Despite the change in the plant's retirement date, the closure plan and schedule included in the original application are not affected. The closure activities detailed in the plan are designed to be conducted independently of the plant's operational status. The selected closure method remains the most appropriate closure option for the Bottom Ash Pond and the closure alternatives analysis included as Attachment A to the Closure Plan is not affected by the revised plant retirement date.

Additionally, the amount of CCR that will be generated before the plant retires has changed. The 2023 Closure Plan estimated an additional 500,000 cubic yards of CCR would be generated prior to the plant retiring at the end of 2025. However, with the extended operation through 2027, an additional 420,000 cubic yards of CCR are expected to be generated in 2026 and 2027.

Should you have any questions or comments regarding the above responses, please contact Rhys Fuller at <u>rhys.fuller@vistracorp.com</u> or (618) 975-1799.

Sincerely,

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Phil Morris, P.E. Sr. Director, Environmental