

May 9, 2018

In accordance with 40 CFR § 257.94(e), the owner or operator of a coal combustion residuals (CCR) unit must establish an assessment monitoring program meeting the requirements of 40 CFR § 257.95 if a statistically significant increase (SSI) over background groundwater quality is identified by the detection monitoring program, and prepare a notification stating that an assessment monitoring program has been established. The notification must be placed in the facility's operating record within 30 days of establishing an assessment monitoring program (40 CFR § 257.105(h)(5)).

Comparison of background groundwater quality with concentrations of parameters in downgradient monitoring wells observed during the November 2017 Detection Monitoring Program sampling event identified an SSI for one or more 40 CFR Part 257 Appendix III parameters at Hennepin Old West Ash Pond (Pond No. 1 and Pond No. 3) and Hennepin Old West Polishing Pond.

As allowed by 40 CFR § 257.94(e)(2), the following were evaluated as potential alternate sources for each SSI:

- Error in sampling and analysis protocol
- Error in statistical analysis
- Natural causes
- Anthropogenic causes

These evaluations were not conclusive in demonstrating an alternate source for the SSI.

Consequently, and in accordance with 40 CFR § 257.94(e), an assessment monitoring program in accordance with 40 CFR § 257.95 was established by April 9, 2018 for Hennepin Old West Ash Pond (Pond No. 1 and Pond No. 3) and Hennepin Old West Polishing Pond.