Cynthia Vodopivec
Illinois Power Generating Company
6555 Sierra Dr.
Irving, TX 75039

October 22, 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: Newton Power Plant Alternative Closure Demonstration – Update to Schedule and Closure Plan

Dear Mr. Behan:

Illinois Power Generating Company (IPGC) hereby submits this update to the closure schedule and closure plan associated with the alternative closure demonstration for the Newton Power Plant near Newton, Illinois. As detailed in the alternative closure demonstration submitted to EPA on November 25, 2020, IPGC requested an extension pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 257.103(f)(2) so that the Primary 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, IPGC projected that Unit 1 at the Newton Power Plant would cease operation by July 17, 2027. However, due to recent reliability and market conditions in MISO, IPGC now projects that Unit 1 will be in operation until no later than September 1, 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, 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. IPGC 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 September 1, 2027 and completion of pond closure by October 17, 2028. See Attachment 1.

Furthermore, IPGC submitted a construction permit application to the Illinois EPA on July 28, 2022 for closure of the primary 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 2022, 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. Additionally, on April 11, 2025 IPGC submitted a revised closure plan to Illinois EPA and on May 21, 2025 posted a notice to its CCR website incorporating the revision into the federal closure plan.

This submission and its attachments should be included by EPA as an update to the administrative record for the Newton 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 618-606-7788 or phil.morris@vistracorp.com.

Sincerely,

Cynthia Vodopivec

SVP – Environmental, Health & Safety

Attachment 1

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 Primary Ash Pond, along with an addendum, is included as Attachment 9.

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, Newton began sitework to support the closure of the Primary Ash Pond in the Summer of 2024, the remaining boiler will cease coal-fired operation no later than September 1, 2027, and Newton will subsequently cease placing wastestreams into the Primary Ash Pond in order for closure to be completed by this deadline.

Table 6-1 is included below to summarize the major tasks and estimated durations associated with closing the Primary 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 IPGC 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 Newton Primary 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 404-acre impoundment that can be closed during the last two construction seasons. The smaller active portion of the pond will remain in operation while IPGC 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 the pond footprint after the date noted to begin construction of closure (Phase 1), as well as the current estimates for the closure of the active area (Phase 2, remaining 40-50 acres). In order to dewater the impoundment, IPGC will likely release pond water through the existing Outfall 001.

Table 6-1: Newton Primary Ash Pond Closure Schedule

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

Action	Estimated Timeline (Months)
Obtain environmental permits: • State Waste Pollution Control Construction/Operating Permit • NPDES Industrial Wastewater Permit Modification (*modification would be required to allow the associated ponded and subsurface free liquids generated before the pond closure to be discharged to Waters of the US and to allow reconfiguration of the various wastestreams to either other NPDES-permitted outfalls or newly-constructed NPDES-permitted outfalls*) • General NPDES Permit for Storm Water Discharges from Construction Site Activities and Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) • On July 28, 2022, Newton submitted a closure plan to Illinois EPA as part of its construction permit application pursuant to 35 Ill. Admin Code §845.220. • On August 16, 2022, a notice was posted on Newton'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. • On April 11, 2025, Newton submitted a revised closure plan to Illinois EPA. • On May 21, 2025, Newton posted a notice on the CCR website indicating the closure plan had been revised.	21
Spec, bid, and Award Construction Services for CCR Impoundment Closure	3
Begin Sitework to Support Closure	Summer 2024
Minimize Active Area of Impoundment / Dewater Phase 1 Area	9
Regrade CCR Material in Phase 1 Area	24
Install Cover System – Phase 1 Area*	18
Establish Vegetation – Phase 1 Area**	2
Cease Coal-Fired Operations (No Later Than)	September 1, 2027
Dewater Impoundment – Phase 2 Area	4

Action	Estimated Timeline (Months)
Cease Placement of Waste (No Later Than, allowing for plant cleanup and dredging of impoundments following coal pile and plant closure)	December 2027
Regrade CCR Material – Phase 2 Area	6
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	84 months
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.

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