

# MWVG

Midwest Generation, LLC

## Will County Generating Station

# 2022 Inflow Design Flood Control System Plan for South Ash Pond 2 & South Ash Pond 3

**Revision 0**

**October 14, 2022**

**Issue Purpose: Use**

**Project No.: A12661.149**

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## 1.0 PURPOSE & SCOPE

### 1.1 PURPOSE

South Ash Pond 2 and South Ash Pond 3 at Midwest Generation, LLC's (MWG) Will County Generating Station ("Will County" or the "Station") are existing coal combustion residual (CCR) surface impoundments that are regulated by the Illinois Pollution Control Board's "Standards for the Disposal of Coal Combustion Residuals in CCR Surface Impoundments." These regulations are codified in Part 845 to Title 35 of the Illinois Administrative Code (35 Ill. Adm. Code 845, Ref. 1) and are also referred to herein as the "Illinois CCR Rule." Pursuant to 35 Ill. Adm. Code 845.510(c)(1), MWG must prepare an annual inflow design flood control system plan documenting how the inflow design flood control systems for South Ash Ponds 2 and 3 have been designed and constructed to meet the hydrologic and hydraulic capacity requirements for CCR surface impoundments promulgated by 35 Ill. Adm. Code 845.510.

This report documents the 2022 inflow design flood control system plan prepared in accordance with the Illinois CCR Rule by Sargent & Lundy (S&L) on behalf of MWG for South Ash Ponds 2 and 3 at Will County. This report:

- Lists the inputs and assumptions used to determine whether South Ash Ponds 2 and 3 can manage the inflow design flood,
- Discusses the methodology used to prepare the 2022 inflow design flood control system plan,
- Summarizes the results of the 2021 hydrologic and hydraulic calculations performed to support the conclusion of whether South Ash Ponds 2 and 3 meet the hydrologic and hydraulic requirements for CCR surface impoundments promulgated by the Illinois CCR Rule,
- Evaluates potential changes to the inputs used in the 2021 hydrologic and hydraulic calculations to determine whether new or updated calculations are warranted, and
- Provides the results of the hydrologic and hydraulic calculations used to determine whether South Ash Ponds 2 and 3 can manage the inflow design flood.

### 1.2 SCOPE

In addition to being regulated under the Illinois CCR Rule, Will County's South Ash Ponds 2 and 3 are also regulated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) "Standards for the Disposal of Coal Combustion Residuals in Landfills and Surface Impoundments," 40 CFR Part 257 Subpart D (Ref. 2), also referred to herein as the "Federal CCR Rule." Per the 2016 Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation (WIIN) Act, South Ash Ponds 2 and 3 will continue to be subject to both the Illinois and Federal CCR Rules until the U.S. EPA approves the Illinois EPA's CCR permit program; the Illinois EPA has yet to publish a timeline for submitting its proposed CCR permit program to the U.S. EPA for approval. However, the scope of this 2022 inflow flood control system plan is strictly limited to demonstrating compliance with the Illinois

CCR Rule. Pursuant to 40 CFR 257.82(c)(4), the next inflow design flood control system plan for demonstrating compliance with the Federal CCR Rule will be completed in 2026, five years after the last periodic plan was completed (2021).

## **2.0 INPUTS**

### **Inflow Design Flood Control System**

The inflow design flood control systems for South Ash Ponds 2 and 3 are documented in the ponds' initial federal inflow design flood control system plan, which was prepared by Geosyntec Consultants in October 2016 (Ref. 3). This plan is provided in its entirety in Appendix A.

### **Inflow Design Flood Event**

Per the ponds' 2022 hazard potential classification assessment (Ref. 4), South Ash Ponds 2 and 3 are classified as Class 2 CCR surface impoundments pursuant to 35 Ill. Adm. Code 845.440(a)(1). Therefore, the inflow design flood event for both ponds is based on the 1,000-year storm (Ref. 1, § 845.510(a)(3)). Per the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Atlas 14 (Ref. 5), the precipitation depth for the 1,000-year, 24-hour storm event at the Will County site is 13.3 inches.

### **Site Topography**

Topographic data for South Ash Ponds 2 and 3 and the surrounding areas was obtained from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) National Digital Elevation Program (Ref. 6). This topography reflects elevation data collected in 2010 at a 1-meter resolution.

### **Aerial Images**

Historical and recent aerial images of the Station and surrounding areas were obtained from Google Earth Pro (Ref. 7).

### **Ash Pond Conditions**

The operating and physical conditions for South Ash Ponds 2 and 3 were based on observations made by S&L during a site visit in March 2022, discussions with MWG personnel, and the 2021 annual inspection report prepared for the CCR surface impoundments in accordance with 35 Ill. Adm. Code 845.540(b) (Ref. 9).

## **3.0 ASSUMPTIONS**

There are no assumptions in this document that require verification.

## 4.0 METHODOLOGY

The inputs for the latest hydrologic and hydraulic calculations performed for South Ash Ponds 2 and 3, which were completed in October 2021, were reviewed to determine if any changes have occurred since these calculations were completed. Identified changes were then evaluated to determine if updates to these calculations were warranted. If no changes were identified, or if identified changes were determined to have no impact to the results and conclusions of these calculations, then the latest hydrologic and hydraulic calculations performed for South Ash Ponds 2 and 3 were considered to still be valid for this 2022 inflow design flood control system plan.

## 5.0 HYDROLOGIC & HYDRAULIC ASSESSMENT

### 5.1 SUMMARY OF 2021 HYDROLOGIC & HYDRAULIC CALCULATIONS

The latest hydrologic and hydraulic calculations for Will County's South Ash Ponds 2 and 3 were completed in October 2021. The inputs, methodology, and results of these calculations are documented in the ponds' 2021 inflow design flood control system plan (Ref. 8). As stated in the 2021 plan, these calculations were performed by conservatively assuming (1) no rainfall abstraction (*i.e.*, the full design precipitation depth over a pond's catchment area was assumed to enter the pond), (2) the surface water elevations in the ponds at the time of the design storm event were at the ponds' respective maximum design operating levels (589 feet above mean sea level (amsl)); and (3) the hydraulic structures downstream of the ponds were full at the time of the storm event. The results of this 2021 assessment indicated that water entering the ponds during the inflow design flood event would not overtop the ponds' dikes. The freeboards for South Ash Ponds 2 and 3 during the design event were each estimated to be 0.15 foot. Based on these results, it was concluded that the ponds have adequate hydraulic capacities to retain the 1,000-year flood event without water overtopping the ponds' dikes and were therefore in conformance with 35 Ill. Adm. Code 845.510(a).

### 5.2 CHANGES TO INPUTS FOR 2021 HYDROLOGIC & HYDRAULIC CALCULATIONS

The following subsections summarize the evaluation conducted to determine if changes to the inputs used in the latest hydrologic and hydraulic calculations for South Ash Ponds 2 and 3 have occurred since the calculations were completed in 2021 that warrant updating the calculations.

#### 5.2.1 CHANGES IN ASH POND OPERATIONS

In early October 2020, Will County took South Ash Pond 3 out of service for routine cleaning. In April 2021, MWG filed a notice of intent to close South Ash Pond 3 in accordance with the Federal CCR Rule's closure criteria (Ref. 2, § 257.102). Following the retirement of Unit 4 in June 2022, South Ash Pond 2 now receives only stormwater overflow from the South Area Runoff Basin and intermittent CCR wastestreams associated

with decommissioning the Station (equipment washdown, etc.). Upon completion of decommissioning activities and an ongoing project to re-route the aforementioned outflow from the South Area Runoff Basin to the North Area Runoff Basin, MWG will file a notice of intent to close South Ash Pond 2. Closure construction activities will commence at both ponds upon receipt of closure construction permits from the Illinois EPA in accordance with Subpart B of the Illinois CCR Rule.

As noted in the latest annual inspection report (Ref. 9), 1 to 2 feet of water was observed in South Ash Pond 2 and less than 1 foot of water was observed in South Ash Pond 3 in October 2021. Except for the elimination of CCR wastestreams into South Ash Pond 2, operating conditions at South Ash Ponds 2 and 3 have not changed since the latest hydrologic and hydraulic calculations were prepared in 2021. Because these calculations were based on conservatively assuming the surface water in both ponds was at each pond's respective maximum design operating level, there have been no significant changes to the operations of the Will County ash ponds that warrant updating the 2021 hydrologic and hydraulic calculations.

### **5.2.2 CHANGES IN ASH POND TOPOGRAPHY**

Based on visual observations made during S&L's site visit in March 2022, review of the 2021 annual inspection report (Ref. 9), and reviews of Google Earth aerial images (Ref. 7), there have been no significant modifications to the embankments for South Ash Ponds 2 and 3 (mass excavations, mass fill placement, etc.) since the latest hydrologic and hydraulic calculations were completed in 2021. Therefore, the topographic data (Ref. 6) and the original construction drawings for the ponds (see Appendix A) used in these calculations are unchanged and remain valid for use in this 2022 assessment.

### **5.2.3 CHANGES TO INFLOW DESIGN FLOOD EVENT**

Per the ponds' 2022 hazard potential classification assessment (Ref. 4), South Ash Ponds 2 and 3 are both classified as Class 2 CCR surface impoundments pursuant to 35 Ill. Adm. Code 845.440(a)(1), the same hazard potential classifications the ponds were assigned in 2021. Therefore, the inflow design flood event for both ponds remains the 1,000-year storm (Ref. 1, § 845.510(a)(3)). As documented in the ponds' 2021 inflow design flood control system plan (Ref. 8), the precipitation value for the 1,000-year, 24-hour storm event used in the latest hydrologic and hydraulic calculations completed for South Ash Ponds 2 and 3 was 13.3 inches per NOAA's Atlas 14. As stated in Section 2.0, NOAA's 1,000-year, 24-hour precipitation value for the Will County site remains 13.3 inches. Therefore, the inflow design flood event used in the 2021 hydrologic and hydraulic calculations is unchanged and remains valid for use in this 2022 assessment.

## **5.3 RESULTS**

Other than changes to the operational status of South Ash Pond 2 (cessation of CCR wastestreams), there have been no significant modifications to South Ash Ponds 2 and 3 and no changes to the ponds' inflow

design flood event since the latest hydrologic and hydraulic calculations were prepared in 2021. Therefore, the results and conclusions documented for South Ash Pond 2's and South Ash Pond 3's inflow design flood control systems in the 2021 inflow design flood control system plan remain valid.

Table 5-1 summarizes the results from the hydrologic and hydraulic calculations performed for South Ash Ponds 2 and 3. Based on these results, water entering South Ash Ponds 2 and 3 during the inflow design flood event will not overtop the ponds' dikes. The freeboard in each pond during the design event was estimated to be 0.15 foot. Considering the Station has ceased power generating operations, no longer operates South Ash Pond 2, and is currently re-routing the only wastestream still being managed by South Ash Pond 3, these results are conservative.

**Table 5-1 – Summary of Hydrologic & Hydraulic Assessment Results for South Ash Ponds 2 & 3**

CCR Surface Impoundment	Illinois Hazard Potential Classification	Inflow Design Flood	Maximum Surface Water Elevation	Pond Crest Elevation
South Ash Pond 2	Class 2	1,000 Year	590.35 feet	590.50 feet
South Ash Pond 3	Class 2	1,000 Year	590.35 feet	590.50 feet

## 6.0 CONCLUSIONS

Based on the results in Table 5-1, Will County's South Ash Pond 2 and South Ash Pond 3 have adequate hydraulic capacities to retain the 1,000-year flood event without water overtopping the ponds' dikes. Therefore, South Ash Ponds 2 and 3 are able to collect and control the inflow design flood event specified in 35 Ill. Adm. Code 845.510(a)(3).

## 7.0 CERTIFICATION

I certify that:

- This inflow design flood control system plan was prepared by me or under my direct supervision.
- The work was conducted in accordance with the requirements of 35 Ill. Adm. Code 845.510.
- I am a registered professional engineer under the laws of the State of Illinois.

Certified By: Thomas J. Dehlin

Date: October 14, 2022

Seal:



## 8.0 REFERENCES

1. Illinois Pollution Control Board. "Standards for Disposal of Coal Combustion Residuals in CCR Surface Impoundments." 35 Ill. Adm. Code 845. Accessed October 13, 2022.
2. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. "Standards for Disposal of Coal Combustion Residuals in Landfills and Surface Impoundments." 40 CFR Part 257 Subpart D. <https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-40/chapter-I/subchapter-I/part-257/subpart-D>. Accessed October 13, 2022.
3. Geosyntec Consultants. "Inflow Design Flood Control System Plan, South Ash Pond 2S and South Ash Pond 3S, Will County Station." October 2016.
4. Sargent & Lundy. "2022 Hazard Potential Classification Assessment for South Ash Pond 2 & South Ash Pond 3." Rev. 0. S&L Project No. A12661.149. October 2022.
5. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. "Point Precipitation Frequency Estimates." NOAA Atlas 14, Volume 2, Version 3.
6. U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service, National Geospatial Center of Excellence. "LiDAR Elevation Dataset - Bare Earth DEM - 1 Meter." 2010. Processed June 2021.
7. Google Earth Pro v7.3.0.3832. Accessed October 13, 2022.
8. Sargent & Lundy. "Inflow Design Flood Control System Plan for South Ash Pond 2 and South Ash Pond 3" Rev. 0. S&L Project No. 12661-124. October 2021.
9. Civil & Environmental Consultants, Inc. "Annual Inspection Report, Ash Ponds 2S and 3S, Will County Station." October 13, 2021.



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**APPENDIX A: 2016 FEDERAL INFLOW DESIGN FLOOD  
CONTROL SYSTEM PLAN FOR SOUTH ASH PONDS 2 & 3**

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