

**Notification of Establishment of Assessment Monitoring Program
per §257.94(e)(3)
Facility: Talen Montana, LLC Colstrip Steam Electric Station**

1. Introduction

On April 17, 2015, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) published a final rule to regulate the disposal of Coal Combustion Residuals (CCR) as solid waste under subtitle D of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA). The “CCR Rule” sets minimum criteria for existing and new CCR landfills, existing and new CCR surface impoundments (collectively referred to as CCR units) and lateral expansions of CCR Units. All CCR units are subject to groundwater monitoring and corrective action under Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Title 40 Parts 257.90 through 257.98.

In accordance with § 257.93(h), The owner or operator of the CCR unit must determine if there is a statistically significant increase (SSI) over background values for each constituent required under § 257.94(a). If the owner or operator concludes, per §257.93(h), that there is an SSI for one or more of the constituents in Appendix III to the CCR Rule, the owner or operator must establish an assessment monitoring program meeting the requirements of §257.95 within 90 days of detecting the SSI.

2. Notification

As a result of SSIs determined pursuant to § 257.93(h)(2), this document was prepared (per §257.94(e)(3)) as notification that an Assessment Monitoring program has been established at the Colstrip SES. CCR Units at the Colstrip SES to which the Assessment Monitoring Program is applicable are the 1&2 B Flyash Pond, the 1&2 Bottom Ash Pond, the 3&4 Bottom Ash Pond, the 1&2 STEP E Cell & Old Clearwell, and the 3&4 EHP A, B, C, D/E, G, J, J-1 Cells. In accordance with §257.94(e)(1), the Assessment Monitoring Program was initiated within 90 days of determining SSI. Establishment of the Assessment Monitoring Program included collecting and analyzing groundwater samples for all constituents listed in Appendix IV to part 257 for each well as required by §257.95(b).

Per §257.94(e)(3), the owner or operator has completed the notification when the notification is placed in the facility’s operating record, as required by §257.105(h)(5). Per §257.105(h)(5), this notification is to be placed in the facility operating record for Colstrip SES within 30 days of establishing the Assessment Monitoring program.