SERVICES YOU COUNT ON

**August 26, 2011**

VIA-Email

Mr. Stephen Hoffman
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (5304P)
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20460

Re: Final Report: Specific Site Assessment for Coal Combustion Waste Impoundments at Empire District Electric Company, Riverton Generating Station, Riverton, Kansas – June 2011

Dear Mr. Hoffman,

The Empire District Electric Company (Empire District) received the above report with an attached letter, dated July 26, 2011, which listed the recommended course(s) of action resulting from the Coal Ash Site Assessment at our Riverton Power Station. The initial inspection on September 23, 2010, as it related to Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) guidelines for dam safety, was both constructive and informative in its scope of work. The final report and recommendations provided will be an important resource for Empire District to enhance and assure the structural integrity of our coal combustion waste impoundment.

**Plans and Schedules for Implementing Final Report Recommendations**

12.1 Corrective Measures and Analyses for the Structures

Item 1-2

Trees will be removed from the East Cell downstream slope and toe area, to include all other perimeter areas of the impoundment. A minimum of 25 feet of clear space will be provided between the downstream toe and the tree line. Seasonal weather and access permitting, the removal process will begin as soon as practicable, consistent with proper engineering considerations. Empire District expects to complete the project no later than December 2012.

Item 3

A trash rack for the outlet in the northeast corner of the East Cell will be installed to prevent large debris from obstructing flows through the outlet pipe. This corrective action will be performed prior to or during the next scheduled plant outage in March 2012.

Item 4

A slope stability analysis to address the liquefaction potential of all existing ash stockpiles and embankments will be performed, as part of a listed scope of services / requirements outlined in a Request for Proposal (RFP) released by Empire District on August 24, 2011. Empire District will select a contractor with geotechnical study and work experience to conduct a coal ash site structural assessment in December 2011. The RFP project is expected to be completed in December 2012.

12.2 Corrective Measures Required for Instrumentation and Monitoring Procedures

Additional scope of services / requirements for the RFP includes the following:

1. The development and implementation of a monitoring program that includes piezomters and settlement monuments, to be installed along the dikes and active cells that continue to receive wet coal combustion waste.

2. The design and installation of flow measurement devices at the recommended discharge locations, to allow for measurement and recording of discharge volumes.

3. The installation of a staff gage set at the proper vertical datum in the East Cell to monitor water levels.

12.3 Corrective Measures Required for Maintenance and Surveillance Procedures

Empire District will develop and document annual inspections of the Riverton ash pond and settling basin by corporate and plant staff familiar with dam safety evaluations. An additional inspection will be included every 5 years by a third-party professional engineer with experience in dam safety evaluations. The next third-party dam safety evaluation will be scheduled by September 2015.

Please note; the undersigned is now the responsible office at Empire District for the management of CCW impoundments. If I can address any questions you may have regarding the Riverton site please contact me at 417-625-6587 or bmertens@empiredistrict.com .

Respectfully,

Blake Mertens
Vice President – Energy Supply
The Empire District Electric Company