UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

SEP 15 2009

OFFICE OF
SOLID WASTE AND
EMERGENCY RESPONSE

VIA E-MAIL AND FEDERAL EXPRESS

Ms. Barbara Walz
Vice President Environmental
Tri-State Generation and Transmission
P.O. Box 33695,
Denver, Co. 80233-0695

Dear Mr. Walz,

On June 2-3, 2009 the United States Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA") and its engineering contractors conducted a site assessment of the Emergency Scrubber Pond, North Bottom Ash Pond, South Bottom Ash Pond, and Evaporation Ponds 1A-5 at the Escalante facility. The purpose of this visit was to assess the structural stability of the impoundments or other similar management units that contain "wet" handled coal combustion residuals (CCRs). We thank you and your staff for your cooperation during the site visit. Subsequent to the site visit, EPA sent you a copy of the draft report evaluating the structural stability of the units at Escalante facility and requested that you submit comments on the factual accuracy of the draft report to EPA. Your comments were considered in the preparation of the final report .

The final report for the Escalante is enclosed. This report concluded that there are no coal combustion waste impoundments on-site. Impoundments on-site are for temporary storage of scrubber sludge to facilitate drying and wastewater evaporation.

Since there are no coal combustion waste impoundments on-site, we request that you conduct a general review of the report within 14 days. Please send your comments to:

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

If you are using overnight of hand delivery mail, please use the following address:

Mr. Stephen Hoffman
US Environmental Protection Agency
Two Potomac Yard
2733 S. Crystal Drive
5th Floor, N-237
Arlington, VA 22202-2733

You may also provide a response by e-mail to hoffman.stephen@epa.gov

This request has been approved by the Office of Management and Budget under EPA ICR Number 2350.01.

You may assert a business confidentiality claim covering all or part of the information requested, in the manner described by 40 C. F. R. Part 2, Subpart B. Information covered by such a claim will be disclosed by EPA only to the extent and only by means of the procedures set forth in 40 C.F.R. Part 2, Subpart B. If no such claim accompanies the information when EPA receives it, the information may be made available to the public by EPA without further notice to you. If you wish EPA to treat any of your response as "confidential" you must so advise EPA when you submit your response.

You should be aware that EPA will be posting the report for this facility on the Agency website shortly.

Given that the site visit related solely to structural stability of the management units, this report and its conclusions in no way relate to compliance with RCRA, CWA, or any other environmental law and are not intended to convey any position related to statutory or regulatory compliance.

If you have any questions concerning this matter, please contact Mr. Hoffman in the Office of Resource Conservation and Recovery at (703) 308-8413. Thank you for your continued ongoing efforts to ensure protection of human health and the environment.

Sincerely,

Matt Hale, Director
Office of Resource Conservation and Recovery

Enclosure