

Monticello-Welsh Community Meeting Coal Ash Information Session

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Overview

1. Federal Coal Ash Regulations
2. Texas Coal Ash Program
3. Monticello Power Plant
4. Welsh Plant



2015 Coal Ash Final Rule

Rule establishes a comprehensive regulatory program to address risks

Establish minimum national criteria for existing and new CCR landfills, surface impoundments, and lateral expansions of these units

Public Website Requirements

Regulatory Changes

Due to litigation, statute changes, and implementation issues, EPA changed the CCR regulations since 2015 but the majority of the rule is the same.

EPA is currently working on two rulemakings:

Federal CCR Permit Program Final Rule: Establishing a federal CCR permit program for CCR units in nonparticipating states or tribal lands to obtain a permit

Legacy CCR Surface Impoundment Final Rule: Establishing requirements for inactive surface impoundments at inactive power plants and CCR management units.

Texas CCR Permit Program

On June 1, 2021, EPA approved the Texas CCR state permit program, pursuant to the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) section 4005(d)(1)(B).

The Texas program allows the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) to enforce rules promulgated under its solid waste statute related to CCR activities in non-Indian country, as well as to issue permits (called “registrations” in Texas) and to enforce permit violations.

Texas CCR regulations are in [Title 30, Texas Administrative Code \(30 TAC\), Chapter 352](#)

Monticello Power Plant

- Monticello Steam Electric Station ceased generating power in February 2018 and is not generating new CCR waste.
- The property, including the CCR units, was acquired by Golden Eagle Development, LLC (Golden Eagle) in December 2019.
- There are three CCR surface impoundments, totaling approximately 19 acres.
- Golden Eagle is working through closure of these surface impoundments by removing the waste. TCEQ is overseeing the closure of these units.
- Additional information is available on the website <https://www.ccrsites.com/monticello>

Welsh Plant

- AEP Welsh Power Plant is active and is generating CCR waste. American Electric Power (AEP) plans to cease using coal to generate power by 2028.
- Welsh has one CCR landfill and two surface impoundments. The CCR landfill is active. One surface impoundment is no longer accepting CCR and AEP is closing the unit. The second surface impoundment is still accepting waste and scheduled for closure in 2027.
- AEP submitted request for an extension to the deadline for unlined CCR surface impoundments to stop receiving waste and is waiting on a decision from EPA.
- Additional information can be found on the website <https://www.aep.com/environment/ccr/Welsh>

Questions for the Listening Session

- 1) Are you aware of the public websites for the Monticello Power Plant and Welsh Plant?
- 2) Are you aware of the ability to make citizen complaints regarding dust/air quality from facilities?
- 3) Do you have any environmental concerns regarding coal ash or the power plants?