

October 28, 2021 Project No. 21451440

Paul Cederquist

Environment and Safety Specialist Grand Haven Board of Light and Power 1700 Eaton Drive Grand Haven, MI 49417

PROGRESS UPDATE AND PLAN & SCHEDULE FOR FORMER COAL YARD CLOSURE, J.B. SIMS GENERATING STATION

Dear Mr. Cederquist,

Golder Associates Inc. (Golder) is providing this letter to provide information regarding the ongoing closure activities of the former coal yard area at the former J.B. Sims Generating Station (JB Sims, Site). This update provides a summary of completed and ongoing activities and recommendations for future work.

The status of completed and ongoing activities related to the former coal yard closure at the Site is summarized as follows:

- *Updated Closure Verification Work Plan* for the Site was prepared by Golder and reviewed and approved by the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy (EGLE) on July 9, 2021(the Plan)
- Completion of initial site survey in accordance the Plan over the western portion of the site in August 2021
- Survey of the eastern portion of the site and storm water runoff area in accordance with the Plan cannot be completed until dewatering is completed
- Completion of borings in accordance with the Plan in September 2021 that revealed:
 - The former coal yard area generally has only surficial coal in soil remaining
 - Thicker layers of coal exist near the utility trenches where soils mixed with coal was used as backfill that would require dewatering to remove and could cause issues to infrastructure.
 - Borings confirmed coal in the storm water runoff area
 - Coal in the stormwater runoff area that would require dewatering to remove
- Soil samples collected from borings in the former coal yard storm water runoff area and analytical testing was completed to characterize the material for disposal:

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15851 South US 27, Suite 50 Lansing, Michigan, USA 48906

Paul Cederquist Project No. 21451440

- Analytical results indicated that no constituents were above regulatory levels for Type II landfilling
- However, levels of total PFAS were detected above cleanup criteria and high sulfur levels in the soils may impact disposal options at landfills
- Testing of water in the stormwater runoff area also documented the presence of PFAS compounds
- Survey of the perimeter of former coal yard area was completed in October to evaluate the potential for storm water that contacted material to leave the area
- A berm was placed on the southern perimeter of the remaining clay from the former Unit 3 impoundments to prevent stormwater (from the former plant site) entering or leaving this area in October

Given the bulleted issues above, coal yard closure and verification cannot proceed until measures to remove and properly discharge the runoff waters are developed. Additionally, completing partial closure could result in coal being re-introduced to the area by stormwater from the areas not closed. Items needing to be addressed specifically are outlined in the following Plan and Schedule:

- Development of a dewatering and liquids management plan that includes treatment for the detected constituents including PFAS - December 31, 2021
- Dewatering and pretreatment system design and contractor selection to complete the work January 31, 2022
- Applying for and obtaining approval to discharge to the public owned sanitary sewer system (if approved) including pre-treatment for constituents including PFAS or submittal of request for discharge via a voluntary Administrative Consent Order to allow necessary dewatering so cleanup activities can continue - February 28, 2022
- Receiving landfill pre-approval for solids disposal and the landfill's conditions for disposal February 28, 2022
- Receiving pre-approval for disposal of PFAS treatment system wastes (i.e., activated carbon, filters, etc.) February 28, 2022
- Evaluate the due care requirements of the coal in the utility trenches January 31, 2022
- Others to be determined

In the interim while these items are being addressed, Golder recommends the existing stormwater management berm system around the perimeter of the coal pile be improved to prevent stormwater that contacts material from leaving the site. A berm elevation of greater than 584 feet above mean sea level (ft-amsl) is recommended to be above the surrounding floodplain elevation. Clean material from on or offsite sources should be used in completing the perimeter berm. We recommend placing temporary erosion and sediment protection such as a straw erosion matt on the berm slopes that do not currently have vegetation to protect the berm through the winter months until vegetation can be established or closure has been completed.

Several items should be included within the former coal yard area. First, we recommend an interior berm be constructed to an elevation greater than 584 ft-amsl to prevent stormwater from the eastern portions of the site migrating to the west. Material for the interior berm can be obtained by scraping the surficial material in the former



October 28, 2021

Environment and Safety Specialist

coal yard area west of the berm to a depth of several inches. Next, we recommend a swale be excavated to drain low areas in the northwest corner of the yard to low areas to the south. Material excavated in constructing the swale can be used to construct the interior berm, if required. The location of all proposed berms and swales are shown on the Figure 1 (attached).

Periodic inspection of the site to evaluate erosion should be completed following significant rain or snowmelt events. Regrading and erosion control may be necessary if any erosion is identified during the inspections. Appropriate erosion control measures should be determined based on conditions observed. These may include regrading, silt fencing, erosion matting, or other measures deemed acceptable to mitigate erosion observed.

Please feel free to contact one of the undersigned with any questions or concerns you have relative to the information provided and our recommendations. We also recommend that you forward this update and plan and schedule to EGLE for their records. We look forward to hearing from you and continuing this important work with you.

Tiffany D. Johnson, P.E.

Senior Consultant, Principal

Sincerely,

Golder Associates Inc.

Blaine Litteral, P.E.

Practice Leader

BL/TJ

CC: Dave Walters - GHBLP

Erik Booth – GHBLP

Attachment - Proposed Berm Upgrade Locations

https://golderassociates.sharepoint.com/sites/140296/project files/5 technical work/coal pile removal update oct21/10-28-21final coal pile closure status letter r2.docx



