



# NORTHERN INDIANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY

## R.M. SCHAHFER GENERATING STATION

First Annual RCRA CCR Unit Inspection Report –  
January 2016

RESTRICTED WASTE TYPE I LANDFILL

OPERATING PERMIT NUMBER 37-01

**Submitted To:** Northern Indiana Public Service Company (NIPSCO)  
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January 15, 2016

Project No. 1542998

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) promulgated the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Coal Combustion Residuals (CCR) Rule (Rule) on April 17, 2015, with an effective date of October 19, 2015. The Rule requires owners or operators of existing CCR landfills to have those units inspected on an annual basis by a qualified professional engineer in accordance with 40 CFR 257.84(b)(1). The initial annual qualified professional engineer inspections are required to be completed and the results documented in inspection reports (per 40 CFR 257.84(b)(2)) for CCR landfills. Golder Associates Inc. (Golder) was retained by Northern Indiana Public Service Company (NIPSCO) to perform the annual inspection of the Restricted Waste Site Type I Landfill, permitted by the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM), per Permit Number 37-01, expiration date October 1, 2019, a CCR landfill located at the R.M. Schahfer Generating Station (Site).

The CCR Rule establishes national minimum criteria and new CCR management obligations for existing, new, and lateral expansions of CCR disposal units. One of the new obligations pertains to inspections, specifically; CCR unit owners/operators must initiate the following activities:

- weekly inspections and monthly instrument monitoring of CCR Units by October 19, 2015; and
- annual inspections of CCR units by January 18, 2016.

This report presents the results of the first annual inspection of the CCR Landfill unit at the NIPSCO R.M. Schahfer Generating Station (RMSGs), located in Wheatfield, Jasper County, Indiana. The inspection was conducted to comply with §257.84 of the CCR Rule.

Per 40 CFR 257.84(b)(1), Golder reviewed available information regarding the status and condition of the CCR unit and performed an onsite visual inspection which was conducted on November 3, 2015. The objectives of the inspection included the following:

- Review of Operational Records (as applicable, see Section 3):
  - Design and construction information.
  - Results of previous structural stability assessments.
  - Results of previous annual inspections.
- A visual inspection of the CCR unit to identify signs of distress or malfunction of the CCR unit.

In accordance with §257.84(b)(2), this inspection report has been prepared by a qualified professional engineer documenting the operational records review, visual inspection, and identifying the following since the previous annual inspection:



- Any changes in geometry of the CCR Landfill since the previous annual inspection.
- The approximate volume of CCR contained in the CCR unit at the time of the inspection.
- Any appearances of an actual or potential structural weakness of the CCR unit, in addition to any existing conditions that are disrupting or have the potential to disrupt the operation and safety of the CCR unit.
- Any other change(s) which may have affected the stability or operation of the CCR unit since the previous annual inspection.



## 2. FACILITY DESCRIPTION

The RMSGS CCR Landfill is a Restricted Waste Site Type I Landfill, located approximately 1.3 miles southeast of the main entrance to the Site. The active portions of the CCR Landfill take dry fly ash from the RMSGS Units, Michigan City Generating Station Units, and the Bailly Generating Station Units. Upon completion, the total ash placement footprint will be approximately 210 acres. Phases I, II, III and IV comprise approximately 110 acres and were closed as of October 19, 2015. Phase V and Phase VI are approximately 18.5 acre active filling areas, and have a soil/geosynthetics floor liner with a 3 horizontal to 1 vertical (3H:1V) containment berm with a crest elevations of approximately 667 feet above mean sea level (ft-msl). Phase VII is a permitted, but unconstructed area of the CCR Landfill. The 3H:1V containment berm is currently approximately 13,000 feet long, measured along the crest. The maximum height of the closed portion of the landfill is approximately 733 ft-msl.



### 3. BACKGROUND AND DOCUMENT REVIEW SUMMARY

The existing reports reviewed for this assessment are summarized in Table 1 below.

**Table 1: Summary of Background Document Review**

Document	Date	Author
NIPSCO Phase III – FGD/Fly Ash Landfill Construction, R.M. Schahfer Generating Station, Wheatfield, Indiana, Contract Drawings	April 12, 1996	Burns & McDonnell
NIPSCO Phase I – FGD/Fly Ash Landfill Construction, R.M. Schahfer Generating Station, Wheatfield, Indiana, Phase I Landfill Reclosure, Intermediate Grading Plan	November 6, 1998	Burns & McDonnell
NIPSCO Phase I – FGD/Fly Ash Landfill Construction, R.M. Schahfer Generating Station, Wheatfield, Indiana, Phase I Landfill Reclosure, Details	November 23, 1998	Burns & McDonnell
NIPSCO Phase I – FGD/Fly Ash Landfill Construction, R.M. Schahfer Generating Station, Wheatfield, Indiana, Phase I Landfill Reclosure, Final Grading Plan	January 12, 1999	Burns & McDonnell
NIPSCO Phase IV – Fly Ash Landfill Closure, R.M. Schahfer Generating Station, Wheatfield, Indiana	April 10, 2013	Burns & McDonnell
NIPSCO R.M. Schahfer Generating Station Specification. Front End Specifications for Phase IV Fly Ash Landfill Closure Construction Quality Assurance (CQA) (Includes CQA Plan)	April 16, 2013	Burns & McDonnell
NIPSCO Phase VI – Fly Ash Landfill Construction Contract – Record Drawings, R.M. Schahfer Generating Station, Wheatfield, Indiana	November 25, 2014	Sargent & Lundy



#### 4. 2015 VISUAL INSPECTION

The 2015 onsite inspection of the active portions of the CCR Landfill (Phases V and VI) was performed by Ms. Tiffany Johnson, P.E. and Ms. Halle Doering of Golder Associates Inc. (Golder) on November 03, 2015. Ms. Johnson is a Professional Engineer licensed in the State of Indiana. Golder's inspectors were accompanied by Ms. Tamra Reece, Environmental Coordinator with NIPSCO RMSGS for a portion of the inspection.

The inspection provides the following information as stipulated in 40 CFR 257.84(b):

- Any changes in geometry of the CCR Landfill since the previous annual inspection.
  - Not applicable.
  - Since this is the first annual inspection, changes in geometry will be incorporated in the report for the next annual inspection.
- The approximate volume of CCR contained in the CCR unit at the time of the inspection.
  - Approximately 673,630 cubic yards in active Phases V and VI of the CCR Landfill.
- Any appearances of an actual or potential structural weakness of the CCR unit, in addition to any existing conditions that are disrupting or have the potential to disrupt the operation and safety of the CCR unit.
  - None were observed.
- Any other change(s) which may have affected the stability or operation of the CCR unit since the previous annual inspection.
  - None were observed.

Given that this is the first annual inspection for the active portions of the CCR Landfill (Phases V and VI) at the RMSGS, the conditions noted during the November 3, 2015 inspection of the active portions of the CCR Landfill will be compared to future annual inspections.

Based on observations made on November 3, 2015, the overall condition of the active portions of the CCR Landfill is acceptable. No structural weaknesses or safety issues were observed within the berms, active areas or closed areas. Based on visual observations made on November 3, 2015, there were no visual conditions identified that would likely impact the operation of the active portions of the CCR Landfill.



## 5. CLOSING

This report has been prepared in general accordance with normally accepted civil engineering practices to fulfill the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) reporting requirements in accordance with 40 CFR 257.84(b). Based on our review of the information provided by NIPSCO and on Golder's on-site visual inspection, the overall condition of the landfill is acceptable. Golder's assessment is limited to the information provided to us by NIPSCO and to the features that could be inspected visually in a safe manner. Golder cannot attest to the condition of subsurface or submerged structures.

Sincerely,

**GOLDER ASSOCIATES INC.**

Tiffany Johnson, P.E.  
Senior Engineer

David M. List, P.E.  
Principal





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