



# **2022 Annual Landfill Inspection**

## ***Big Stone Plant - Ash Disposal Area***

Prepared for  
Otter Tail Power Company  
Big Stone City, South Dakota

December 2022

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## Certifications

I hereby certify that I, or someone under my direct supervision, have examined the Big Stone Plant Ash Disposal Area CCR Landfill, and, being familiar with the provisions of 40 CFR 257 Subp. D and standard practices of the industry, I have determined that the Ash Disposal Area design, construction, operation, and maintenance are consistent with generally accepted good engineering standards.

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Barr Engineering Co.  
Registration Number 8949

Dated this 9<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2022

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## 1.0 Introduction

Otter Tail Power Company (OTP) operates the Big Stone Plant (Big Stone), located near Big Stone City, South Dakota. Big Stone is a coal-fired electrical generating plant, operation of which results in coal combustion residuals (CCR) as a by-product. Management of CCR is subject to Federal Standards for Disposal of Coal Combustion Residuals in Landfills and Surface Impoundments per 40 CFR 257 Subpart D (CCR Rule). CCR generated by the plant is placed in an on-site landfill or sent off-site for beneficial use. The on-site landfill is known as the Ash Disposal Area (ADA).

The ADA is required to meet CCR Rule provisions for landfills and is therefore subject to annual inspections by a qualified professional engineer (QPE). This report documents the 2022 ADA annual inspection, as required by the CCR Rule.

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## 2.0 Review of Existing Information

Existing information was reviewed to confirm that the design, construction, operation, and maintenance of the ADA are consistent with recognized and generally accepted good engineering standards. No deficiencies were found, and the existing information reviewed is described in following subsections.

### 2.1 Results of Weekly Inspections

Weekly landfill inspections were conducted by a qualified person from November 30, 2021 through December 1, 2022. Inspection reports from November 30, 2021, through November 29, 2022, were reviewed as part of the QPE annual inspection. Review of the weekly inspection reports did not identify any potential issues with operation or maintenance of the ADA.

### 2.2 Results of Previous Annual Inspections

The 2021 annual inspection report was reviewed in preparing this 2022 report. The 2021 report did not identify any significant deficiencies at the facility when compared with industry practices and state permit and rule requirements.

## 3.0 Structural Integrity and Operational Review

An on-site inspection was performed on October 12, 2022, to visually identify signs of distress or malfunction of the CCR Unit. The results of the inspection are included in the following subsections.

### 3.1 Visual Inspection of Ash Disposal Area

Inspection consisted of on-foot inspection of perimeter berms and embankments, the active ADA face, and final covered areas. Visual inspection items and results are summarized in the following table:

**Table 3-1 Summary of Visual Inspection**

Item	Visual Inspection Description	Consistent With Good Engineering Standards (Yes/No)	Notes
1	Proper placement of waste	Yes (in general; see note)	The ash in the current lift is at the permitted grade on the east side. Ash berms were temporarily constructed on this side as an erosion control measure in the event of a large storm. This area is scheduled to be closed next summer. The ash berms will be graded during the closure.
2	Adequate slope stability and erosion control	Yes	None
3	Run-on and Run-off controls properly functioning	Yes	None
4	Surface water percolation minimized	Yes	None
5	Contact water systems properly operated and maintained	Yes	None
6	Water quality monitoring systems maintained and operating	Yes	None
7	Dust adequately controlled	Yes	None
8	Geometry of ADA is unchanged from previous inspection.	Yes	None
9	Animal burrows absent or of no significance	Yes	None
10	Adequate vegetation density and vegetation maintenance	Yes	Vegetation well established. Site is hayed every 2 years (done this year).
11	Debris controlled or absent	Yes	None

### 3.2 Other Changes

No other changes to the CCR Unit design, maintenance, or operations were observed as part of the annual inspection that could affect the stability or operation of the CCR Unit.

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## 4.0 Volume of CCR Contained in ADA

A topographic survey was conducted in May 2022. Approximately 129,200 cubic yards of material were placed in the ADA between the June 2021 survey and the May 2022 survey. Based on the rate of filling between the surveys, it was estimated that approximately 3.16 million cubic yards of CCR and other approved materials were in place in the ADA at the time of the 2022 QPE inspection on October 12, 2022. The other material may include, but is not limited to, plant construction and demolition debris, brine pond solids, burn pit ash, SCR (Selective Catalytic Reduction) material, and other materials. It is estimated based on haul records that approximately 48,000 tons of CCR material (wet weight) was deposited in the ADA between January 1, 2022, and September 30, 2022, based on haul records.