

FACT SHEET



INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

R.M. Schahfer Generating Station Waste Disposal Area

Coal Combustion Residual (CCR) Closure Plan
Office of Land Quality

317-232-8603 • 800-451-6027

idem.IN.gov

100 N. Senate Ave., Indianapolis, IN 46204

Background:

- The R.M. Schahfer Generating Station is owned by Northern Indiana Public Service Company (NIPSCO). It is located at 2723 East 1500 North, Wheatfield, 46392, near Wheatfield in Jasper County.
- The Waste Disposal Area (WDA) is a surface impoundment of approximately 85 acres that was used by NIPSCO to hold coal combustion residual (CCR) material such as bottom ash, boiler slag, and sluice water, and non-CCR streams from the R.M. Schahfer Generating Station.
- On Dec. 22, 2023, NIPSCO submitted documents concerning the closure plan for the WDA impoundment. NIPSCO is proposing a clean closure as defined by 40 CFR 257.102(c). The WDA will be closed by excavating the visible CCR contents within the impoundment limits plus one foot of additional soil excavation below the bottom of the CCR materials. The removed CCR material will be disposed at the R.M. Schahfer permitted Restricted Waste Site Type I Landfill. Once the visible CCR has been removed, three soil samples per acre will be collected to determine if the removal is at or below the background threshold values. If the sampling indicates that the background threshold values are not met, NIPSCO proposes two contingency designs. The first contingency design provides a final cover design within the entire limits of the WDA, assuming the clean closure was not achievable over the entire WDA. The second contingency design provides a hybrid clean closure and closure by removal area, assuming that the background threshold values were achieved over a portion of the WDA.
- Additional details about the closure plan may be found in the following documents in IDEM's Virtual File Cabinet (VFC): The closure plan application dated Dec. 22, 2023 (VFC #[83574810](#)), and Response to Request for Additional Information dated September 23, 2024 (VFC #[83702842](#)).
- **A virtual public meeting will be held by the applicant on May 14, 2025** beginning at 5:30 p.m. CDT. A description of the location, operation, and closure of the WDA will be presented. The meeting link is available at: <https://www.nipsco.com/our-company/about-us/our-environment>. The public will be invited to submit comments regarding the closure plan to the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM), please see below for information on how to submit comments.

Closure Plan Review Process:

- Indiana utilities must submit closure plans for landfills and surface impoundments to IDEM for review and approval. All closure plans will be reviewed by IDEM to determine whether they meet state and, where applicable, federal requirements and are protective of human health and the environment. Requests for additional information and revised plans will be exchanged until IDEM deems the closure plan technically adequate and approves the plan. Otherwise IDEM will deny approval of the plan.

Indiana State Rules for Coal Ash:

- IDEM's solid waste program regulates disposal of coal ash in restricted waste site (RWS) landfills under the rules in the Indiana Administrative Code (IAC) at 329 IAC 10. IDEM's solid waste program does not regulate coal ash surface impoundments that are subject to a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit. The final disposal of solid waste in surface impoundment(s) is subject to IDEM approval under 329 IAC 10-3-1(9).
- Effective Dec. 10, 2016, IDEM adopted by reference a portion of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) CCR regulation governing CCR surface impoundments (329 IAC 10-9-1(b) and (c)). Governor Eric J. Holcomb signed House Enrolled Act 1230 on Feb. 23, 2017, which amended IC 13-19-3-3 to allow the Indiana Environmental Rules Board to adopt rules consistent with the federal CCR regulations. IDEM received U.S. EPA's approval of IDEM's amended *Solid Waste Management Plan* to address requirements of the CCR regulations on March 7, 2017.

Federal Regulations for Coal Combustion Residuals:

- To address risks from disposal and discharge of coal ash, U.S. EPA established federal regulations for the disposal of CCR. On Oct. 19, 2015, a new U.S. EPA regulation titled *Standards for the Disposal of Coal Combustion Residuals in Landfills and Surface Impoundments* became effective. These regulations apply to electric utilities and independent power producers that manage or dispose of CCR in landfills and surface impoundments after issuance of the regulations. Regulations governing CCR can be found in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) at 40 CFR 257, Subpart D. The CCR regulations were originally written to be "self-implementing" because U.S. EPA was not authorized under federal law to enforce the program. This changed in 2016 with Congress's passage of the *Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act* (WIIN Act), which authorizes U.S. EPA or a state to implement a permit program to enforce CCR regulations.

IDEM's Role

- IDEM is responsible for protecting human health and the environment while providing for safe industrial, agricultural, commercial, and governmental operations vital to a prosperous economy.
- IDEM's Office of Land Quality is responsible for reviewing closure plans for surface impoundments. Engineers and geologists evaluate design drawings and operating plans to ensure they meet or exceed the rule requirements before granting an approval or modifications to an approval.
- In addition to issuing approvals that comply with federal and state environmental regulations designed to protect public health and the environment, IDEM is also responsible for overseeing permitted activities and monitoring compliance at permitted facilities.
- IDEM will ensure all submitted materials related to the surface impoundment closure plan are publicly available through IDEM's VFC.

Citizen's Role

- You can review the application and related correspondence online at IDEM's Virtual File Cabinet (VFC) web site using the following steps:
 - Go to idem.IN.gov/legal/public-records/virtual-file-cabinet, which is the VFC's "Document Search" page.
 - Once there, click on **Virtual File Cabinet** in the blue box.
 - Select the **Quick Search** dropdown arrow in the upper right corner of the screen.
 - Select **SW Program ID (Solid Waste)**.

- Enter the SW Program ID, 37-004 in the box to the right of the Quick Search box.
- Click the blue Search arrow, which will create a list of links to the documents for this facility.
- The date in the Document Date column will match the document date noted in this Fact Sheet. Click the highlighted numbers in the **Content Id** column to view individual documents.
- Click on the Click on the dropdown menu **Page x out of y** or the green navigation arrows on either side of the box to open additional pages containing additional documents.
- Comments may be addressed to Lindsey Hummel, the Solid Waste Permit Manager assigned to this facility, by email at LHummel@idem.IN.gov or by mail at the following address:

Lindsey Hummel, Permit Manager
Indiana Department of Environmental Management
Office of Land Quality, Solid Waste Permits
IGCN 1101
100 North Senate Avenue
Indianapolis, IN 46204-2251

- All public comments are due to IDEM by **Friday, June 13, 2025**.
- When IDEM makes a final decision about the closure plan, a Notice of Decision will be mailed to landowners within one mile of the facility, individuals who submitted comments with a return address, or individuals who requested notification.

Facility Web Postings:

- Utilities subject to federal CCR regulation are required to post documents and reports to a website they maintain. Examples of the documents and reports required to be posted include structural integrity of existing surface impoundments, design criteria and location restriction demonstration, emergency action plan, updates to dust controls, run-on/run-off controls, closure and post-closure care and annual groundwater monitoring and corrective action reports. Links to U.S. EPA's and IDEM's websites are provided below and links to facility-specific websites can be accessed through those webpages.

Additional Information

- You can direct questions to Lindsey Hummel at 317-232-7833 or LHummel@idem.IN.gov.
- For more information about activities managed through the IDEM Solid Waste Permits Section, please visit IDEM's website at idem.IN.gov/waste/solid-waste.
- To receive email or text updates every time IDEM posts new information on its CCR webpage, subscribe to IDEM updates at idem.IN.gov/pages/subscribe. Provide an email address or phone number and check the box for Coal Combustion Residuals (CCR) in the drop-down menu under Land.
- U.S. EPA CCR website: epa.gov/coalash.
- CCR facility reports: idem.IN.gov/waste/resources/permits-registrations-approvals-and-closures/coal-combustion-residuals