## Colstrip Administrative Order on Consent Status Update and Annual Meeting

August 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2018



Sara Edinberg Hydrogeologist Waste Management & Remediation Division

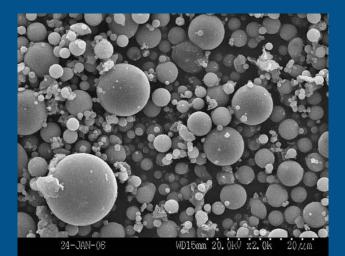
## Agenda

- Background/AOC Overview
- AOC Status Update:
  - Completed Reports
  - Under Revision
- Plant Site Remedy Evaluation Overview
- Cleanup Criteria & Risk Assessment Overview
- Closure Plans Update
- Financial Assurance Update
- What's Next?

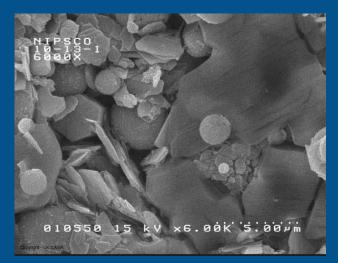


### What is coal ash?

- Coal Combustion Residual (CCR); byproduct of burned coal
- May contains traces of metals naturally present in the coal
- Regulated by Federal CCR Rule



Fly ash (magnified 2000x)



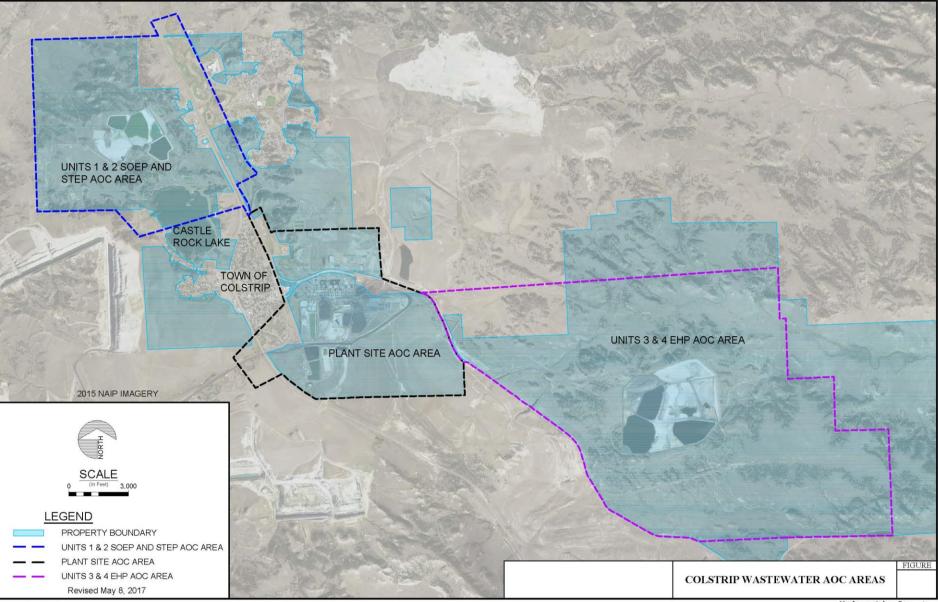
Bottom ash (magnified 6000x)



### Administrative Order on Consent (AOC)

- Addresses groundwater contamination from coal ash disposal ponds
- Divides site into 3 areas:
  - Plant Site
  - Units 1&2 Evaporation Ponds
  - Units 3&4 Effluent Holding Ponds





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### **AOC Process**

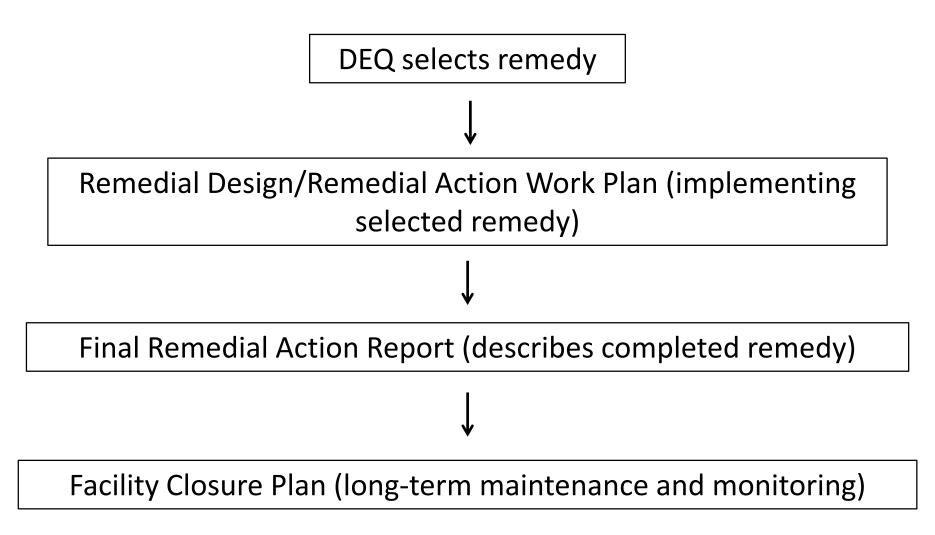
Site Characterization Report (describes the current condition of each area)

Cleanup Criteria & Risk Assessment Report (identifies constituents of interest, risk for exposure to contaminants, and cleanup criteria for contaminants)

Remedy Evaluation Report (evaluates remediation alternatives)



# **AOC Process (continued)**





#### **Administrative Order On Consent (AOC) Status**

#### **DEQ-Approved Completed Reports**

- All Site Characterization Reports
- Background Screening Level Report
- Revised Plant Site Remedy Evaluation Report has preliminary conditional approval
  - Public comment period from August 13<sup>th</sup> September 12<sup>th</sup>



### Administrative Order On Consent (AOC) Status

#### **Drafts Currently Being Revised**

- Plant Site Cleanup Criteria & Risk Assessment Report
- Units 1&2 Cleanup Criteria & Risk Assessment Report
- Units 1&2 Remedy Evaluation Report
- Closure Plans (all areas)





#### **Cleanup Criteria & Risk Assessment Report Overview**

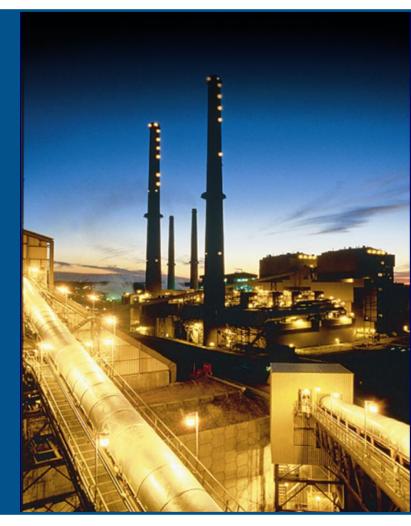
- Plant Site and Units 1&2 Areas Reports nearing completion
- Data gap for radium
- Determine source
- Cleanup criteria for other constituents are approved





#### **Constituents of Interest**

- Boron
- Sulfate
- Cobalt
- Lithium
- Molybdenum
- Selenium
- Manganese
- Radium (more studies needed)

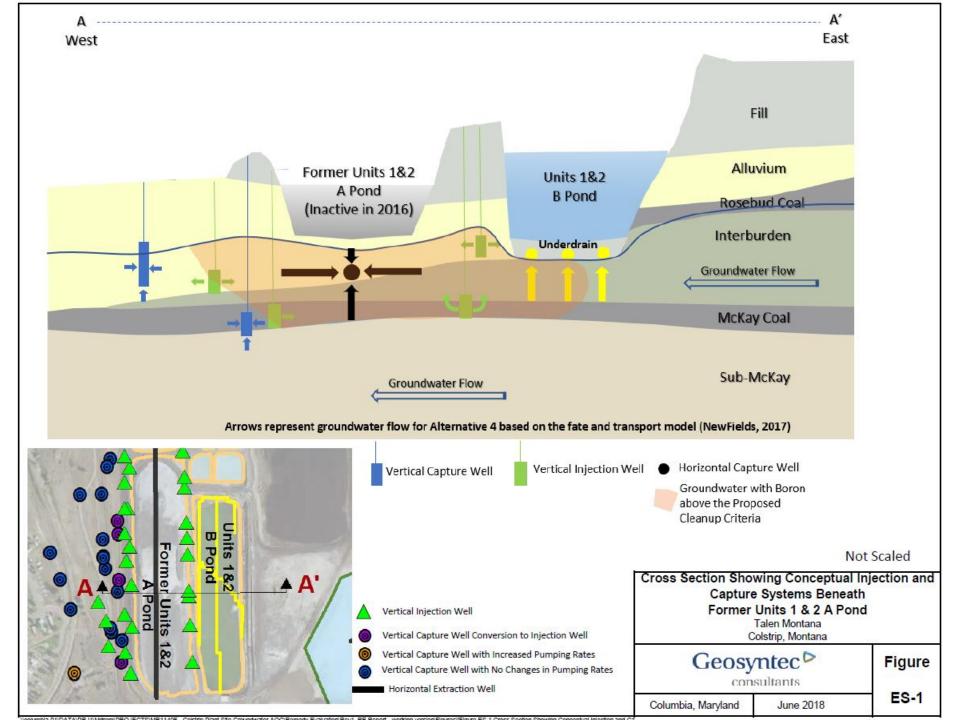




#### **Plant Site Remedy Evaluation Report Overview**

- Preliminary conditional approval
- Alternative consists of:
  - Additional groundwater capture
  - Clean water injection wells
  - Ash dewatering
  - Contingency plans
- Addresses groundwater impacts by 2049
- Mass of boron and sulfate decrease by 97% and 100% respectively





#### **Units 1&2 Remedy Evaluation Report Overview**

- First draft submitted May 4, 2018
- Alternative consists of:
  - Additional groundwater capture
  - Clean water injection wells
  - Contingency plans
- DEQ did not approve the report
- Selected alternative did not achieve cleanup criteria by target date (2049)



### **Boron Alternative 4 - Layer 4**

E-E



### **Closure Plans Overview**



- Plans required additional details
- Talen responded to comments on August 13<sup>th</sup>
- Draft final plans will be submitted by August 31<sup>st</sup>



### **Financial Assurance Status**

- Three phases of financial assurance
- Talen has submitted Phase I
- Phase II is required upon DEQ approval of Remedy Evaluation Reports
- Phase III is required upon DEQ approval of Closure Plans



## What's Next?

- Revised Closure Plans will be submitted by August 31, 2018
- Units 3&4 Cleanup Criteria & Risk Assessment will be submitted by September 21, 2018
- Units 3&4 Remedy Evaluation Report will be submitted in November 2018





# **Questions?**

Public comments can be submitted to:

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