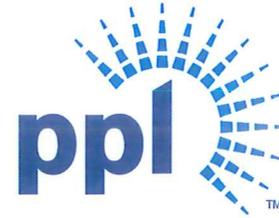


PPL Montana, LLC  
Colstrip Steam Electric Station  
P.O. Box 38  
Colstrip, MT 59323  
Tel. 406.748.5055 Fax 406.748.5000



January 23, 2015

Mr. Charles Freshman, P.E.  
Hard Rock Program  
Montana Department of Environmental Quality  
P. O. Box 200901  
Helena, MT 59620-0901

*Sent via email to: [chfreshman@mt.gov](mailto:chfreshman@mt.gov)*

Re: Colstrip Dams Inspection Recommendations Follow-up

Dear Mr. Freshman:

Please find enclosed a spreadsheet detailing our progress on recommendations from the 2014 Colstrip Dam Inspection Reports. We anticipate completing the majority of the action items by the end of summer 2015. The annual evaluation of the 3&4 EHP embankments will be completed by year end. We trust that the attached satisfies your request as detailed in your November 14, 2014 letter.

Please contact Steve Christian at 406/748-5019 or [sjchristian@pplweb.com](mailto:sjchristian@pplweb.com) if you require additional information.

Sincerely,

Gordon Criswell P.E.  
Director, Environmental and Engineering Compliance

cc: Steve Christian, Manager / Mike Holzwarth / Bill Neumiller / FileNet

# PPLMT Colstrip 2014 Dam Inspection Recommendations/Action Items

Rev. 0, 1/21/15

Pond Area / Dam	Completion Date	Responsible Party	Comments	Done
<b>AB Pond Inspection</b>				
1. Backfill rodent holes and monitor to determine if rodents are active. If rodents are present, reinstate a rodent control program.	Spring 2015	MVH	Ecolab performed rodent control a month before the inspection. Rodent control will be scheduled again in spring of 2015.	
2. Reseed recently disturbed areas where a pipeline was installed to establish vegetation.	Spring 2014	WLN	Seeded west and north dike disturbances in Spring of 2014.	X
3. Repair eroded areas in the crest shoulder berms and the downstream and upstream slopes. Prepare a drainage plan to prevent further erosion damage.	Dec-14	MVH	Eroded areas were repaired	X
<b>Castle Rock Lake Inspection</b>				
<b>Main Dam:</b>				
1. Collect data from piezometers PZ-29, GW-3, GW-11 and SURGE-09-1P at the same time that pond levels are measured at intervals no longer than monthly and ideally twice a month for at least a year in order to establish a baseline for the piezometers' behaviors. Special attention should be paid to the area near GW-3 for evidence of surface seepage and for high levels in GW-3.	Dec-14	MVH/Hydrometrics	Data is being collected monthly.	X
2. Install surface flow measurement devices to monitor the flow from the Main Dam's internal drain and from the interception ditch adjacent to the Pumping Plant Building. A recommended location for a measuring device is shown on Figure 2-2.	Dec-14	MVH/Hydrometrics	Data is being collected monthly.	X
3. Remove willows and small trees among the riprap on the upstream slope.	Aug-14	WLN	Contractor Sprayed willows and trees on main dam rip rap in August of 2014.	X
4. Remove sagebrush and spray for weeds on the downstream slope.	Oct-14	WLN	Sprayed Sage brush and weeds on the downstream slope of the main dam in October of 2014.	X
5. Backfill rodent holes on downstream slope and monitor for rodent activity. Start a rodent control program if rodents return.	Spring 2015	MVH	Ecolab performed rodent control a month before the inspection. Rodent control will be scheduled again in spring of 2015.	
6. Repair concrete spalling on right spillway wall and joint filler in the left wall floor joint near the flip bucket.	Sep-14	MVH	Repaired September 2014 by LP Contracting	X
7. Have an engineer inspect the outlet pipe access tunnel and the intake tower.	Summer 2015	MVH	Contractor to inspect	
<b>Saddle Dam:</b>				
1. Remove willows and small trees among the riprap on the upstream slope.	Aug-14	BLN	Contractor Sprayed willows and trees on Saddle dam rip rap in August of 2014.	X
2. Backfill rodent holes on downstream slope and monitor for rodent activity. Start a rodent control program if rodents return.	Spring 2015	MVH	Ecolab performed rodent control a month before the inspection. Rodent control will be scheduled again in spring of 2015.	
<b>STEP Dam</b>				
1. Monitor seepage rate and volume from the Main Dam that is being captured by the pump-back system. Correlate readings with Cell E and Clear Well levels.	Spring 2015	MVH/Hydrometrics	Flow meter to be installed.	
2. Fill low areas and tire ruts on the Main Dam crest near the right abutment.	Aug-14	MVH	Completed August 2014	X
3. Backfill rodent holes on the downstream slope and monitor to determine if rodents are present. Reinstate the rodent control program if rodents appear.	Spring 2015	MVH	Ecolab performed rodent control a month before the inspection. Rodent control will be scheduled again in spring of 2015.	
4. Remove sagebrush near the crest. Spray weeds evident around rodent holes and other areas.	Oct-14	WLN	Stage 2 Sprayed sagebrush on the downstream side of the main dam in October of 2014.	X
<b>34 EHP (Main and Saddle Dams)</b>				
1. Remove woody brush from the Saddle Dam downstream slopes.	Spring 2015	WLN	Will physically remove small trees from the face of the dam and spray all sagebrush and woody shrubs with Remedy herbicide	
2. Provide monitoring of toe drains and pump-back systems to correlate flow rate or volumetric readings to the ponds' levels.	Spring 2015	MVH	Flow meter to be installed.	
3. Monitor and provide data collection on the surface seepage flowing at the downstream toe of the Main Dam. Flow measurements need to be correlated to pond level readings.	Spring 2015	MVH	Put in a collection drain and pipe it into the sump	
4. Backfill rodent holes on the downstream slopes of the Saddle Dam. Monitor the area for rodent activity. If rodents are present, reinstate the rodent control program.	Spring 2015	MVH	Ecolab performed rodent control a month before the inspection. Rodent control will be scheduled again in spring of 2015.	
5. Annually evaluate embankment piezometer readings. In addition to what is already accomplished by Womack & Associates, provide analysis of the phreatic surface in the embankments to compare to what a typical phreatic surface should look like for these embankments. Plus correlate the water levels measured in the piezometers to the pond levels to evaluate the potential for internal piping.	Dec-15	MVH/Womack	Womack will collect the data and incorporate it into the annual reports	