

PUBLIC NOTICE

DEQ Determines Proposed Colstrip Remediation Plan to be Complete

Proposed Remediation Plan Now Available for Public Comment

The Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) seeks public comment on the draft version of Talen Montana's *Colstrip Units 1&2 Remediation Plan*, which addresses remedial actions required as a result of the closure of Colstrip Units 1&2 in January 2020. DEQ has reviewed the Remediation Plan and has determined it to be complete. The proposed Remediation Plan is available on DEQ's Colstrip website, <https://deq.mt.gov/DEQAdmin/mfs/ColstripSteamElectricStation>.

The Remediation Plan, submitted by the operator at Colstrip, Talen Montana, LLC (formerly PPL Montana), is required under the 2017 Coal-Fired Generating Unit Remediation Act (§75-8-105, MCA). The Act requires submittal of a proposed Remediation Plan no later than three months after a coal-fired generating unit is retired; Talen Montana submitted the Plan on April 3rd, 2020 in response to the closure of Colstrip Units 1&2 on January 3rd, 2020. A brief summary of the requirements and the Remediation Plan is provided below.

In accordance with the Act, DEQ is soliciting public comments on the proposed Remediation Plan during a 45-day public comment period beginning September 18th and ending November 2nd. Public comments can be submitted to Sara Edinberg, DEQ Project Manager, at DEQColstrip@mt.gov, or may be mailed to the below address:

DEQ Waste Management and Remediation Division
c/o Sara Edinberg
1225 Cedar St
Helena, MT 59601

A remote public meeting will be held via Zoom on October 14th at 7 p.m. For details on how to access the meeting, please visit the DEQ website at <http://deq.mt.gov/public/publiccomment>. A recording of the meeting will be made available on DEQ's website. DEQ will make reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities who wish to participate in the meeting. If you require an accommodation, please contact Sara Edinberg at 406-444-6797 or sedinberg@mt.gov at least one week before the meeting.

The proposed Remediation Plan includes a general overview of the site where the units are located, the unit itself, and affiliated affected property; the current and future uses of the affected property; and remediation information, including references to documents pertaining to ash pond cleanup under the Administrative Order on Consent, and plans for managing solid waste, asbestos, and petroleum-related contamination affiliated with operation of Units 1&2.

Colstrip Units 1&2 (Units) are located at 580 Willow Avenue, Colstrip Montana, and consists of two 333-MW coal-fired electric generating units and associated facilities, including the Stage One and Stage Two Evaporation Ponds located approximately two miles northwest of the Units. Based on the historical use of the area, and ongoing operation of Units 3&4, the reasonable anticipated future use of the Plant Site property where the Units are located will be industrial use, including potential use for renewable energy production and/or storage; the Stage One and Stage Two pond areas will be used as pasture land.

The Stage One and Stage Two Evaporation Pond area will be remediated under the Administrative Order on Consent between Talen Montana and DEQ, and will comply with the federal CCR Rule. Remedial alternatives are currently under consideration by DEQ.

Asbestos-containing materials and presumed asbestos-containing materials will be removed from the Units prior to demolition. These materials will be identified by a licensed asbestos inspector and removed by a certified contractor and disposed in a licensed landfill. An asbestos survey has been completed by Talen Montana and results are available in the proposed Remediation Plan.

Universal wastes, including items such as lamps/bulbs, mercury devices, batteries, and electronic wastes will be handled and disposed of per regulations defined in Title 17, Chapter 53, Subchapter 13 of the Administrative Rules of Montana (ARM).

Other regulated materials, including oils, fire extinguishers, refrigerants, and devices containing small amounts of nuclear materials (such as smoke detectors) will be properly removed and disposed/recycled per regulations specific to those materials, including hazardous waste regulations when necessary.

Two known petroleum releases have been identified at the Units. These releases are being managed by Talen Montana in coordination with DEQ's Petroleum Tank Cleanup Section. If a currently unknown petroleum release is identified in the future, Talen Montana will comply with the provisions of ARM 17.56.601 through 608, including investigation, cleanup, and compliance monitoring requirements.

Information on remedial actions was collected through a Phase I Environmental Site Assessment. Additional investigations, including a Phase II Environmental Site Assessment, will be conducted for Recognized Environmental Conditions identified in the Phase I Reports.