



**Ninth Semiannual Report on the
Progress of Remedy Selection
Stilling Pond (Including Retention
Pond) CCR Unit**

**TVA Cumberland Fossil Plant,
Cumberland City, Stewart County,
Tennessee**

January 12, 2024

Prepared for:

Tennessee Valley Authority
Chattanooga, Tennessee

Prepared by:

Stantec Consulting Services Inc.

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January 12, 2024

1.0 Introduction

In accordance with Title 40 Code of Federal Regulations (40 CFR) § 257.97(a), the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) has prepared this semiannual report to document progress toward remedy selection and design at the Stilling Pond (including Retention Pond) (CCR Unit) at the Cumberland Fossil Plant (CUF) in Cumberland City, Stewart County, Tennessee. This CCR Unit is also known as the Main Ash Pond.

1.1 Regulatory Background

On April 17, 2015, the United States Environmental Protection Agency published a rule that sets forth national criteria for the management of coal combustion residuals (CCR) produced by electric utilities. The requirements can be found in 40 CFR Part 257, Subpart D (CCR Rule). The CCR Rule includes requirements for monitoring groundwater and assessing corrective measures if constituents listed in Appendix IV to Part 257 of the rule are detected in groundwater samples collected from downgradient monitoring wells at statistically significant levels (SSLs) greater than established groundwater protection standards (GWPS).

In January 2019, TVA determined that there were SSLs over established GWPS as defined in 40 CFR § 257.95(h) for one or more Appendix IV constituents in accordance with 40 CFR § 257.95(g). At that time, assessment monitoring detected SSLs above the GWPS for arsenic at monitoring well CUF-206. Since this time, TVA has updated the statistical analysis.

- In mid and late 2023, TVA updated the statistical analysis after incorporating results from the second assessment monitoring and retest events conducted in 2023. The same SSL was observed at the same monitoring well as previously identified. There is currently an SSL above GWPS for arsenic at monitoring well CUF-206.

As of the date of this report, TVA has not demonstrated that a source other than the CCR Unit has caused the SSL associated with well CUF-206, as allowed under 40 CFR § 257.95(g)(3)(ii).

In accordance with 40 CFR § 257.96(a), TVA prepared the 2019 Assessment of Corrective Measures (ACM) Report for the CCR Unit at CUF, placed it in the facility operating record on July 15, 2019, and uploaded it to the TVA CCR Rule Compliance Data and Information website on August 14, 2019. The ACM Report provided an assessment of the effectiveness of corrective measures in accordance with 40 CFR § 257.96(c). Three strategies were identified as potentially feasible to address groundwater exhibiting concentrations of arsenic above the GWPS:

- Monitored Natural Attenuation (MNA)
- Hydraulic Containment and Treatment
 - Physical Barriers
 - Pumping Systems
- Enhanced In-Situ Treatment (EIST)

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- Infiltration Galleries
- Direct Injection
- Permeable Reactive Barriers (PRB).

Following preparation of the ACM Report, TVA began the remedy selection process. Semiannual reports are required pursuant to 40 CFR § 257.97(a) to document progress toward remedy selection and design. TVA placed the prior Semiannual Reports on the Progress of Remedy Selection into the facility operating record pursuant to 40 CFR § 257.97(a) and § 257.105(h)(12). TVA provided notification of the availability of the semiannual reports describing the progress in selecting and designing the remedy and placed the reports on the TVA CCR Rule Compliance Data and Information website in accordance with 40 CFR § 257.106(h)(9) and § 257.107(h)(9). TVA will continue to review new data as it becomes available and implement changes to the groundwater monitoring and corrective action program as necessary to maintain compliance with 40 CFR § 257.90 through § 257.98.

At least 30 days prior to final groundwater remedy selection pursuant to the CCR Rule, a public meeting will be held with interested and affected parties to discuss the results of the corrective measures assessment in accordance with 40 CFR § 257.96(e). The selected remedy must meet the requirements of 40 CFR § 257.97(b) and must consider the evaluation factors set forth in 40 CFR § 257.97(c). Once a final remedy is chosen, a final report describing the remedy and how it meets the standards set forth in 40 CFR § 257.97(b) will be prepared. The owner/operator must provide a schedule for implementing the selected remedy that considers the factors set forth in 40 CFR § 257.97(d).

1.2 Summary of State Required Investigation and Remedy Selection Process

With oversight from the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC), TVA is currently conducting environmental investigations of the CCR units at CUF in accordance with the TDEC Commissioner's Order, OGC 15-0177 (the TDEC Order). The TDEC Order sets forth the process by which TVA is investigating the CCR Units at CUF, as well as how TVA will provide an assessment of the resulting data supporting proposed corrective measures and remedies to TDEC for review and approval. TVA provided TDEC an environmental assessment report (EAR) for CUF, including groundwater results, and TDEC determined the assessment was complete and approved the EAR in November 2023. As part of the TDEC Order process, TVA will submit a Corrective Action/Risk Assessment (CARA) Plan to TDEC for approval in early 2024. The CARA Plan will specify actions that TVA plans to take at the CCR Unit, including corrective measures for groundwater remediation. TDEC must approve the CARA Plan, including the closure methodology for the CCR Unit and corrective measures for groundwater remediation. The TDEC Order process includes a public comment period for the CARA Plan.

1.3 Report Contents

This semiannual progress report provides a summary of CUF site characteristics, the groundwater assessment monitoring program, the findings of the ACM process, and the current progress of selecting and designing a final remedy for SSLs above a GWPS.

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2.0 Site Background and Characteristics

CUF is located in Cumberland City, Stewart County, Tennessee. The facility lies on the south bank of Cumberland River and adjacent to Wells Creek. **Figure 1** shows an overview map of CUF including the CCR Unit. Construction of CUF began in 1968 and power generation commenced in 1973. CUF currently continues to operate as a coal-fired power generation facility. The coal combustion process at CUF has resulted in the production of fly ash, bottom ash, and gypsum.

The CCR Unit encompassed approximately 59 acres. The Stilling Pond (including Retention Pond) was previously used for: (1) detention for stormwater runoff from the Gypsum Storage Area and Dry Ash Stack, (2) process water from the Bottom Ash Pond, (3) effluent from various other plant operations and sumps, and (4) discharge of flow to the Cumberland River via the Condensing Cooling Water Discharge Channel. A temporary lined basin (TLB) has been constructed to facilitate decanting and closure of the CCR Unit. The first permanent Process Water Basin was completed in 2023. The CCR Unit stopped receiving flows on April 11, 2021, and CCR material has been removed from a portion of the CCR Unit.

2.1 Conceptual Site Model Summary

The hydrogeologic conceptual site model (CSM) is one of the primary tools that can be used to support decisions on corrective measures. This section of the report provides a summary of the hydrogeologic CSM. The geology and hydrogeology of the CUF site have been characterized during implementation of multiple investigations. These investigations provide an understanding of site geology and the presence of water-bearing zones.

CUF is located within the Wells Creek Basin, which is a meteor impact structure. The subsurface geology is characterized by two hydro-stratigraphic units that include both the alluvium and the bedrock. Where alluvium is absent, residuum derived from the weathering of bedrock overlies bedrock. The alluvium can be further differentiated into alluvial silts and clays and alluvial sands and gravels. The CCR Unit overlies bedrock formations that primarily consist of limestone, dolomite, and shale. The alluvial sands and gravels are considered the upper-most aquifer, and groundwater from this hydro-stratigraphic unit is monitored in accordance with 40 CFR § 257.91. A cross-section location map is provided as **Figure 2** and a typical cross-section view of the subsurface geology is shown on **Figure 3**. Groundwater flow direction at the CCR Units is generally toward Wells Creek. **Figure 4** presents a potentiometric map using groundwater data collected on August 21, 2023.

2.2 Potential Receptor Review

The largest public water suppliers in Stewart County are the Dover Water Department and the North Stewart Utility District. The City of Erin Water Department provides water to Cumberland City. The Dover Water Department withdraws its water from the Cumberland River. The Dover water treatment plant intake is located approximately 14.4 miles downstream of CUF. The North Stewart Utility District withdraws its water from the Brandon Spring, which is within the Cumberland River and is located approximately 20 miles downstream of CUF. The City of Erin Water Department water supply is sourced from the Cumberland River at its confluence with Yellow Creek approximately 3.7 miles northeast (upstream) of CUF.

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3.0 Groundwater Assessment Monitoring Program

Groundwater assessment monitoring for the CCR Unit is conducted at CUF in accordance with 40 CFR § 257.95.

3.1 Groundwater Monitoring System

In compliance with 40 CFR § 257.91, two background (CUF-201 and CUF-202) and four downgradient monitoring wells (CUF-205, CUF-206, CUF-207 and CUF-208) were installed and comprise the certified groundwater monitoring system for the CCR Unit. The locations of these monitoring wells are presented on **Figure 1**.

3.2 Groundwater Characterization

Groundwater assessment monitoring was conducted from 2018 through 2023 and will continue in 2024. The following Appendix IV constituent was detected at SSLs above a GWPS:

- Arsenic
 - An SSL for arsenic was identified at monitoring well CUF-206
 - The GWPS for arsenic is 10 µg/L

Data from existing wells have been used to characterize the nature and extent of SSLs as required by 40 CFR § 257.95(g)(1). The monitoring well with arsenic above the GWPS is illustrated on **Figure 5**. The work being performed under the TDEC Order process will further refine this characterization and inform the evaluation and selection of the remedy(s) under 40 CFR § 257.97 of the CCR Rule.

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4.0 Assessment of Corrective Measures

TVA prepared the 2019 ACM Report for the CCR Units and placed it in the operating record on July 15, 2019. The report was posted to the TVA CCR Rule Compliance Data and Information website on August 14, 2019. The ACM Report provided an assessment of the effectiveness of corrective measures in accordance with 40 CFR § 257.96(c).

4.1 Planned Source Control Measures

The objectives of corrective measures under 40 CFR § 257.96(a) are to “prevent further releases [from the CCR units], to remediate any releases, and to restore affected areas to original conditions.” Ultimately, in accordance with 40 CFR § 257.97(b)(3), the selected corrective measure must at a minimum “Control the source(s) of releases so as to reduce or eliminate, to the maximum extent feasible, further releases of constituents of appendix IV to this part into the environment.”

The Preamble (80 Fed. Reg. 21302, 21406) to the CCR Rule discusses that source control measures may include modifying operational procedures. The management of wet CCR material has ceased, in order to achieve TVA’s commitment to convert from wet to dry handling of CCR material and to comply with regulatory requirements and timeframes under the CCR Rule. Additionally, TVA has initiated closure of the CCR Unit under the requirements of 40 CFR § 257.101(a)(1). The final closure method for the Stilling Pond (including Retention Pond) will be determined based on the outcome of the TDEC Order process and will be in accordance with 40 CFR § 257.102.

Flows that used to be directed to the CCR Unit have been redirected to a TLB. Flows to the CCR Unit ceased in accordance with the requirements of 40 CFR § 257.101(a)(1). Construction of the Main Ash Pond Repurposing Project, including decanting water and removal of CCR material from a portion of the CCR Unit, began in November 2020. Decanting of water from the CCR Unit has been completed. The first permanent process water basin was completed in 2023. Upon completion of the repurposing project and construction of the process water basin, the remaining portion of the CCR Unit will be closed by removal or closed in place depending upon the outcome of the TDEC Order process and the criteria set forth in 40 CFR § 257.102.

These measures will reduce the potential for migration of CCR constituents to groundwater. Subsequent groundwater assessment monitoring will be conducted to track changes in groundwater conditions resulting from these operational changes. These data will also be considered in the selection and design of a remedy in accordance with 40 CFR § 257.97.

4.2 Potential Remedial Technologies

Subject to necessary environmental reviews, the CCR Unit will be closed in accordance with the TDEC Order, and the criteria set forth in 40 CFR § 257.102.

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In addition to source control measures, three primary strategies were evaluated to address groundwater exhibiting concentrations of arsenic above the GWPS including:

- MNA
- Hydraulic Containment and Treatment
 - Physical Barriers
 - Pumping Systems
- EIST
 - Infiltration Galleries
 - Direct Injection
 - PRB

The ACM Report provides a more detailed description of these evaluated corrective measures. The effectiveness of each potential corrective measure was assessed in accordance with 40 CFR § 257.96(c), and all measures are currently considered feasible as groundwater corrective measures at the CCR Unit.

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5.0 Selection of Remedy: Current Progress

A remedy to address SSLs for arsenic in groundwater will be selected in accordance with 40 CFR § 257.97. Upon selection of a remedy, the owner or operator must prepare a final report (i.e., Remedy Selection Report) describing the selected remedy and how it meets the standards specified below pursuant to 40 CFR § 257.97(b)(1)-(5). Remedies must:

- Be protective of human health and the environment
- Attain the groundwater protection standard as specified pursuant to §257.95(h)
- Control the source(s) of releases so as to reduce or eliminate, to the maximum extent feasible, further releases of constituents in Appendix IV to this part into the environment
- Remove from the environment as much of the contaminated material that was released from the CCR unit as is feasible, taking into account factors such as avoiding inappropriate disturbance of sensitive ecosystems, and
- Comply with standards for management of wastes as specified in §257.98(d).

In support of the remedy selection process, additional investigation is needed and ongoing as described below.

5.1 Data Requirements for Design of Groundwater Corrective Action

Additional investigation to address data gaps to further refine the targeted area for any necessary corrective measures and to evaluate the selected remedy(s) for the CCR Unit will include collection of data during ongoing TDEC Order work that is reported separately. Pursuant to the TDEC Order, the groundwater remedy for this CCR Unit must be approved by TDEC upon completion of the TDEC Order process, which is currently ongoing.

Future activities planned to further evaluate site conditions:

- Additional groundwater sampling was conducted on the facility boundary well (CUF-218) in the second half of 2023 to further characterize site conditions. Additional groundwater sampling is planned for 2024 to obtain baseline groundwater analytical results for statistical analysis.

Ongoing and potential future evaluation of activities that could include MNA:

- A geochemical investigation is ongoing to evaluate groundwater and soil in areas downgradient of the CCR Unit.
- TVA is performing geochemical modeling at the CCR Unit to evaluate the influence of native soils on groundwater chemistry. Geochemical models have been developed to aid in evaluating the effect of various potential corrective measures. The geochemical models account for the geochemical processes operating between groundwater and the native soils that can influence mobility of Appendix IV constituents through adsorption, ion exchange, and potential mineral

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precipitation/dissolution. The time frame of effectiveness and capacity of the native soil system to attenuate Appendix IV constituents are being evaluated using geochemical modeling. Additional geochemical modeling efforts will continue, and models will be further refined as the ACM process progresses.

- Numerical groundwater flow modeling is being conducted to support geochemical modeling and selection of a final remedy by incorporating additional groundwater elevation data gained from the ongoing environmental investigation and additional hydrogeologic characterization efforts under the TDEC Order.

Ongoing and potential future activities to further evaluate hydraulic containment and treatment:

- Groundwater Flow Modeling – A numerical groundwater flow model may be used to evaluate targeted hydraulic containment. A calibrated groundwater flow model may be used to evaluate a variety of hydraulic containment approaches (e.g., vertical wells) and to estimate the groundwater extraction rates necessary to contain an identified target zone. The objective of hydraulic containment modeling would be to demonstrate that groundwater extraction can provide hydraulic control until GWPS for arsenic is achieved.
- Supplemental Hydraulic Properties Evaluation – This evaluation could be necessary if the existing understanding of the hydraulic characteristics of the subsurface is insufficient to evaluate hydraulic capture geometry and potential groundwater recovery rates. If needed, installation of new wells and performance of pumping tests to evaluate hydraulic capture geometry and potential groundwater recovery rates would be used in the groundwater flow modeling simulations for groundwater extraction evaluation. These data would inform the feasibility, design, and implementation of groundwater recovery systems if hydraulic containment and treatment is the selected corrective measure.

Ongoing and potential future activities to evaluate EIST:

- Groundwater Treatability Study – For in-situ treatment of groundwater, bench-scale treatability studies may be conducted on representative groundwater samples prior to selecting a groundwater corrective measure for implementation to address arsenic concentrations. Results of geochemical modeling will be used to guide treatability testing. The groundwater chemistry is site-specific and area-specific; therefore, bench-scale treatability testing can be used to evaluate methods to immobilize or treat arsenic.

5.2 Semiannual Reporting, Public Meeting, Remedy Selection and Final Report

Progress toward the selection and design of the remedy will be documented in semiannual reports in accordance with 40 CFR § 257.97(a). Semiannual reports will be placed into the facility operating record pursuant to 40 CFR § 257.105(h)(12). TVA will provide notifications of the availability of the semiannual reports describing the progress in selecting and designing the remedy and will place the reports on the TVA CCR Rule Compliance Data and Information website in accordance with 40 CFR § 257.106(h)(9) and § 257.107(h)(9), respectively, 30 days after placement in the facility operating record. At least 30 days prior

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to selecting a remedy, a public meeting to discuss the results of the corrective measures assessment will be conducted as required by 40 CFR § 257.96(e).

A final report will be prepared after the remedy is selected. This final report will describe the remedy and how it meets the standards specified in 40 CFR § 257.97. Recordkeeping requirements specified in 40 CFR § 257.105(h), notification requirements specified in 40 CFR § 257.106(h), and internet requirements specified in 40 CFR § 257.107(h) will be complied with as required by 40 CFR § 257.97(e).

References:

TVA, 2019. *Assessment of Corrective Measures TVA Cumberland Fossil Plant, Stewart County, Tennessee*. July 15, 2019.

Attachments:

Figures

Figure 1 – Map with CCR Unit Background and Downgradient Monitoring Wells

Figure 2 – Cross-Section Location Map

Figure 3 – Cross-Section Stilling Pond Including Retention Pond

Figure 4 – Potentiometric Map August 21, 2023

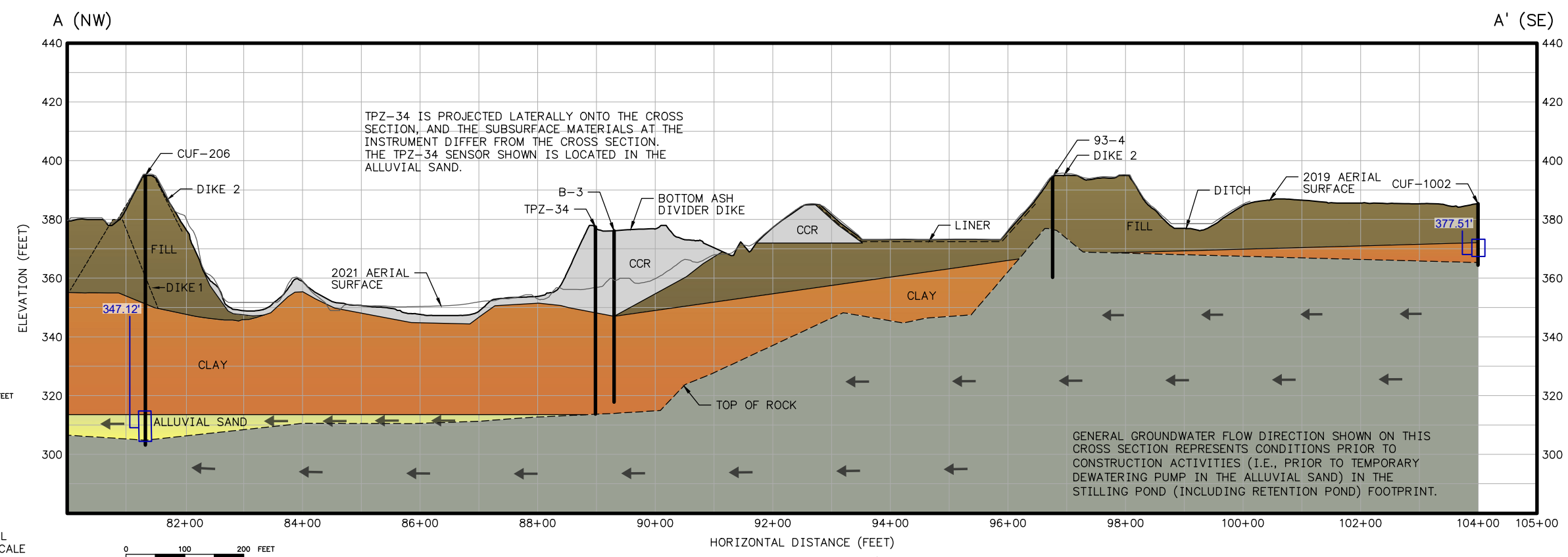
Figure 5 – Monitoring Wells and Appendix IV Constituents Above GWPS

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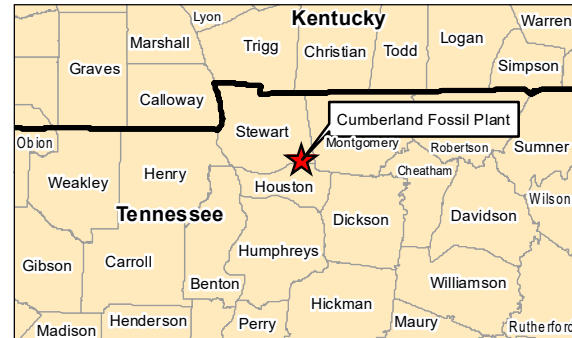
FIGURES

- Legend**
- Screen interval showing groundwater pressure expressed in feet of elevation (August 21, 2023)
 - ← General Groundwater flow direction



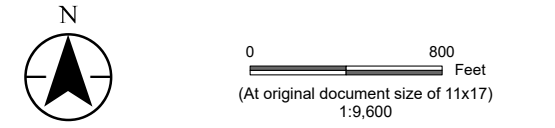
CUF Section A-A'
Stilling Pond (Including Retention Pond)
 Surface Impoundment

- Notes**
1. Elevations are in feet amsl
 2. Complexity of bedrock not shown herein; refer to Bulletin 68 (Wilson, et al 1968) for a more detailed discussion of bedrock geology.



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 Revised: 2022-11-28 By: mibough

Client/Project: Tennessee Valley Authority
 Cumberland Fossil (CUF) Plant
 Project Location: Stewart County, Tennessee
 Prepared by DMB on 2024-01-11
 Technical Review by MP on 2024-01-11
 Independent Review by MD on 2024-01-11



- Legend**
- + CCR Network Well
 - ▲ Staff Gauge
 - Groundwater Flow Direction
 - - - Inferred Potentiometric Contour 8/21/2023 (ft amsl)
 - Potentiometric Contour 8/21/2023 (ft amsl)
 - Surface Water Flow Direction
 - CCR Unit Subject to CCR Rule
 - TVA Property Boundary



- Notes**
1. Coordinate System: NAD 1983 StatePlane Tennessee FIPS 4100 Feet
 2. Basemap: TVA (2023)
 3. The surface water elevation of the Cumberland River was 357.49 ft amsl on August 21, 2023.
 4. An "*" denotes that the groundwater elevation was not used in contouring.
 5. Potentiometric contours are based on groundwater levels within the uppermost aquifer obtained from CCR network and non-CCR network wells, groundwater observation wells, and groundwater piezometers that are adjacent to or within the CCR units.



Monitoring Wells and Appendix IV Constituents Above GWPS

Client/Project
Tennessee Valley Authority
Cumberland Fossil (CUF) Plant

239000572

Project Location
Stewart County, Tennessee

Prepared by DMB on 2024-01-10
Technical Review by MP on 2024-01-10
Independent Review by MD on 2024-01-10



0 500 Feet
(At original document size of 11x17)
1:6,000

Legend

- Background Well
 - Downgradient Well
 - Facility Boundary Monitoring Well
 - Appendix IV > GWPS Well
 - Surface Water Flow Direction
 - CCR Unit Subject to CCR Rule
 - TVA Property Boundary
- GWPS - Groundwater Protection Standard
As - Arsenic

- Notes**
1. Coordinate System: NAD 1983 StatePlane Tennessee FIPS 4100 Feet
 2. Basemap: TVA (2023)

