



September 21, 2023

Mr. Richard Huggins, Chief  
Energy Recovery and Waste Disposal Branch, Office of Land Management  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, MC: 5304-P, Washington, DC 20460

**Request to Withdraw Part B Applications for the Belle River Power Plant Bottom Ash Basins and Diversion Basin**

Mr. Huggins,

On November 30, 2020, DTE Electric Company (DTE) submitted complete Part B applications to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) that requested approval to perform and submit an Alternate Liner Demonstration (ALD), pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 257.71(d) for the Bottom Ash Basins (BAB) and Diversion Basin (DB) located at the Belle River Power Plant located in China Township, Michigan. Final determinations on the applications have not been made.

DTE has ceased receipt of waste in the unlined BABs and initiated a project to retrofit both BABs with an alternative composite liner system that complies with 40 C.F.R § 257.72 (and subsequently § 257.70(c)). The project to retrofit the BABs was initiated on April 12, 2023, by ceasing receipt of waste in the south BAB and managing CCR and non-CCR waste in the north BAB. CCR and underlying soils were removed, and installation of the alternative composite liner system was complete on June 6, 2023. A Construction Quality Assurance Report for the South Basin was submitted to the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) on June 9, 2023, and was subsequently approved by EGLE in a letter dated June 30, 2023. The CCR and non-CCR waste streams were then routed away from the north BAB to the retrofitted south BAB on July 6, 2023, marking the date at which DTE ceased receipt of CCR and non-CCR waste streams from any unlined portion of the BABs. The retrofit of the north basin is ongoing.

DTE has ceased receipt of waste and initiated closure at the DB in accordance with 40 C.F.R § 257.102(c). Wastewater was rerouted and dewatering activities began on May 16, 2023. Subsequent removal of CCR and underlying soil was completed on July 19, 2023. The DB was returned to service as a non-CCR wastewater basin upon completion of removal activities in the bottom of the basin. The closure by removal is documented in the closure certification dated September 15, 2023. A notification of closure will be certified by a qualified professional engineer once groundwater monitoring parameters are demonstrated to meet groundwater protection standards for two consecutive sampling events.

DTE is withdrawing the Part B applications for the Belle River Power Plant Bottom Ash Basins and Diversion Basin that were submitted on November 30, 2020, as DTE is no longer pursuing

approval of these Part B applications and it is no longer necessary for EPA to issue a further extension of the April 11, 2021, deadline to cease receipt of waste at these unlined units.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this letter, please contact the undersigned at (313) 235-0153.

Sincerely,



Christopher Scieszka  
Environmental Management & Safety  
DTE Electric Company