EPA CCR Rule Groundwater Monitoring for 2019

This fact sheet summarizes groundwater monitoring conducted by TVA for the Bull Run Fossil Plant, as required by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Coal Combustion Residuals (CCR) Rule for the 2019 calendar year. The EPA published the CCR Rule on April 17, 2015. It requires companies operating coal-fired power plants to study whether constituents in CCR have been released to groundwater from active, inactive and new CCR impoundments, as well as active and new CCR landfills.

The CCR Rule establishes multiple phases of protective groundwater monitoring including baseline sampling, Detection Monitoring and Assessment Monitoring. Corrective action may be necessary at the completion of this process. For more information on the CCR Rule Groundwater Monitoring requirements, refer to the Executive Summary that can be found by clicking on the following hyperlink www.tva.com/ccr.

Bull Run Plant CCR Rule Groundwater Monitoring Network

In addition to ongoing groundwater monitoring required under State regulations, TVA established a monitoring well network for the Dry Fly Ash Lateral Expansion Unit consisting of “background,” or upgradient, wells in locations that were not expected to be affected by the management of CCR and wells around the edge of the areas where CCR is managed. These wells are sometimes referred to as “downgradient wells” and placed in locations to monitor for releases to groundwater. This CCR Rule groundwater monitoring well network is monitored in accordance with the CCR Rule. The locations of the wells are shown on the figure on the next page.
CCR Rule Detection Monitoring Results for Bull Run Fossil Plant

Since the initial groundwater monitoring results identified statistically significant increases (SSIs) over background levels, TVA conducted an alternate source demonstration to determine if the exceedances were the result of another source or the result of an error in the sampling or analytical method, or natural variability in groundwater quality. As a result of the successful demonstration, the CCR unit remains in Detection Monitoring. The Detection Monitoring results are contained in the 2019 Annual Groundwater Monitoring and Corrective Action Report*. The report can be found on the CCR Rule website at www.tva.com/CCR.

Next Steps for Bull Run Fossil Plant CCR Rule Groundwater Monitoring

TVA will continue detection monitoring for the Dry Fly Ash Stack Lateral Expansion Unit. In addition, the Bull Run Plant has two CCR impoundments that did not require detection monitoring under the original CCR Rule. However, these units are now included under the revised CCR Rule on a different schedule, and the initial results of Detection Monitoring are included in the Initial Annual Groundwater Monitoring and Corrective Action Report which was posted on the CCR Rule website on September 3, 2019.

* The results in this report reflect quality of groundwater beneath the CCR unit and are not necessarily an indication of impacts beyond TVA property. Local utilities are required to test public drinking water supplies to ensure that they are safe for consumption. Monitoring data consistently shows that surface water quality is not being adversely impacted by TVA's operations of its coal plants, including ash management practices.