

SOUTH CAROLINA ELECTRIC & GAS



SURFACE WATER PROTECTION CERTIFICATION

FOR THE
**COPE STATION
CLASS III LANDFILL**
ORANGEBURG COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA

AUGUST 2016



1 OVERVIEW

The EPA Administrator, Gina McCarthy, signed the Disposal of Coal Combustion Residuals from Electric Utilities final rule on December 19, 2014, and it was published in the Federal Register (FR) on April 17, 2015. The regulations provide a comprehensive set of requirements for the safe disposal of coal combustion residuals (CCRs), commonly known as coal ash, from coal-fired power plants. The rule will be administered as part of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act [RCRA, 42 United States Code (U.S.C.) §6901 et seq.], using the Subtitle D approach.

South Carolina Electric & Gas (SCE&G) is subject to the CCR Rule. Based on SCE&G's review of the rule, the **Class Three Landfill at SCE&G Cope Station** has been determined to be an existing CCR landfill subject to the CCR rule requirements.

2 PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to document that surface water discharge from the Cope Station Class Three Landfill meets the requirements of CCR rule §257.3-3 - *Surface Water*.

3 APPLICABLE REGULATIONS

CCR rule §257.3-3 - *Surface Water* states the following:

(a) For purposes of section 4004(a) of the Act, a facility shall not cause a discharge of pollutants into waters of the United States that is in violation of the requirements of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) under section 402 of the Clean Water Act, as amended.

(b) For purposes of section 4004(a) of the Act, a facility shall not cause a discharge of dredged material or fill material to waters of the United States that is in violation of the requirements under section 404 of the Clean Water Act, as amended.

(c) A facility or practice shall not cause non-point source pollution of waters of the United States that violates applicable legal requirements implementing an area wide or Statewide water quality management plan that has been approved by the Administrator under section 208 of the Clean Water Act, as amended.

4 LANDFILL DESCRIPTION

Cope Station is coal-fired electric generation plant located in Orangeburg County near Cope, South Carolina. Within the boundary of the Cope Station property, SCE&G owns and operates Phase 1, consisting of Cell 1 through Cell 4, of the Class Three Landfill. The Phase 1 disposal unit was constructed in accordance with the construction permit (permit LF3-00028) issued from the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) on September 30, 2008 and modified on March 22, 2013. The Phase 1 disposal unit was placed into operation in accordance with an operation approval issued by DHEC on November 12, 2014. The receiving wastewater pond was constructed in accordance with construction permit number 19640-IW issued on February 19, 2013.

5 DISCUSSION OF THE CLEAN WATER ACT & NPDES PROGRAM

From the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) website, *"The Clean Water Act (CWA) establishes the basic structure for regulating discharges of pollutants into the waters of the United States and regulating quality standards for surface waters. The basis of the CWA was enacted in 1948 and was called the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, but the Act was significantly reorganized and expanded in 1972. "Clean Water Act" became the Act's common name with amendments in 1972.*

The CWA made it unlawful to discharge any pollutant from a point source into navigable waters, unless a permit was obtained. EPA's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit program controls discharges."

In 1975, the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC) Bureau of Water received authority from the EPA to administer the NPDES Permit Program in South Carolina. The SCDHEC Bureau of Water is responsible for the permitting, compliance, monitoring, and enforcement activities of the NPDES program. NPDES permits issued by SCDHEC for the discharge to surface waters are issued in accordance with the provisions of the Pollution Control Act of South Carolina (S.C. Code Sections 48-1-10 *et seq.*, 1976), Regulation 61-9) and with the provisions of the Federal Clean Water Act (PL 92-500), as amended, 33 U.S.C. 1251 *et seq.*, the "Act".

6 SURFACE WATER PROTECTION CERTIFICATIONS

As demonstrated in SCANA's *Run-on & Run-off Control Plan for the Cope Station Class Three Landfill*, the landfill's run-on/run-off control system has been designed and constructed to meet the applicable regulatory requirements to manage the flow from the unit resulting from the regulatory prescribed flood event. Based on the demonstration, the landfill can manage the flood event without exceeding the capacity of the control systems and causing a non-point discharge from the facility. Therefore, since there are no non-point discharges from the landfill, the facility will not cause non-point source pollution of waters of the United States that violates applicable legal requirements implementing an area wide or Statewide water quality management plan and the requirements under § 257.3-3 (c) are satisfied.

Discharge from the landfill facility is limited to point discharges associated with the landfill's surface water runoff and leachate. Landfill surface water runoff and leachate are collected within the landfill and conveyed to the facility's adjacent lined runoff pond (SCDHEC Construction Permit No 19640-IW, SCDHEC Approval to Place into Operation October 2014). The surface water is provided initial treatment in the pond and then pumped via forcemain to the plant's wastewater management system prior to final discharge to receiving waters in accordance with the requirements of a SCDHEC-issued NPDES permit for (Permit No. SC0045772). Therefore, since surface water discharge from the facility is performed in accordance with the requirements of an SCDHEC-issued NPDES permit, the facility is not causing a discharge of pollutants or dredged or fill materials into waters of the United States in violation of the CWA and the requirements under § 257.3-3 (a) and (b) are satisfied.