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# **STRUCTURAL INTEGRITY CRITERIA & HYDROLOGIC/HYDRAULIC CAPACITY ASSESSMENT**

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## **RUSH ISLAND ENERGY CENTER**

*Rush Island Energy Center  
100 Big Hollow Road  
Festus, MO 63028*

## Contents

I.	Introduction .....	1
II.	Background .....	1
A.	Active Pond.....	1
B.	Embankment Levee.....	2
III.	Structural Integrity Assessment .....	2
A.	Liner Design Criteria – 40 CFR §257.71 .....	2
C.	Periodic Hazard Potential Classification – 40 CFR §257.73(a)(2) .....	4
D.	Periodic Structure Stability Assessment – 40 CFR §257.73(d).....	6
E.	Safety Factor Assessment – 40 CFR §257.73(e).....	8
F.	Hydrologic and Hydraulic Capacity Requirements - 40 CFR §257.82 .....	9
IV.	Construction Summary – 40 CFR 257.73(c).....	10
A.	Owner and Operator .....	10
B.	RCPA.....	10
C.	Surveillance, Maintenance and Repair of the CCR Units.....	12
D.	Instrumentation .....	12

# STRUCTURAL INTEGRITY CRITERIA & HYDROLOGIC/ HYDRAULIC CAPACITY ASSESSMENT – RUSH ISLAND ENERGY CENTER

## I. Introduction

Ameren Missouri has evaluated the Rush Island Energy Center’s (“Rush Island”) active surface impoundment in accordance with the following operating and design criteria requirements:

§257.71, Liner Design Criteria;  
§257.73(c)(1), History of Construction;  
§257.73(a)(2), Periodic Hazard Potential Classification;  
§257.73(d)(1), Periodic Structural Stability Assessment;  
§257.73(e)(1), Periodic Safety Factor Assessment; and  
§257.82, Hydrologic and Hydraulic Capacity Requirements

For this assessment, Ameren Missouri retained the engineering firm Reitz & Jens, Inc. to evaluate Rush Island’s active surface impoundment to determine whether such unit conforms to good engineering practices<sup>1</sup> with respect to the following criteria: liner design criteria; hazard potential classification; structural stability assessment; safety factor assessment; and hydrologic and hydraulic capacity requirements. Such criteria will be reassessed every five years until such time as the unit is closed in accordance with regulatory requirements. Engineering calculations, diagrams, modeling, and work papers supporting this assessment have been placed in the facility’s operating record.

## II. Background

### A. Active Pond

There is one active surface impoundment at Rush Island, which is called RCPA. The RCPA is a single stage industrial dam that impounds bottom and fly ash within an area of approximately 114 acres. RCPA is permitted by the Missouri Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) as a dam under registration permit ID No. MO-40179. RCPA no longer receives CCRs, has been dewatered and is currently being closed. The impoundment is no longer used for CCR disposal and water treatment.

The location of the facility and RCPA is depicted on Figure 1, United States Geological Services (“USGS”) topographical quadrangle map. Various design and operational features of the CCR unit, including water flow path, is set forth on Figure 2.

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<sup>1</sup> Based on engineering codes, widely accepted standards, or a practice widely recommended through the industry. See 40 CFR 25.53, Definitions.

## **B. Embankment Levee**

The RCPA embankment dam has a crest length of 9,750 feet, a minimum crown width of 14 feet, and upstream and downstream slopes of 3 horizontal (H) to 1 vertical (V). The maximum dam height is 46.0 feet. The RCPA is divided by an internal berm constructed of CCR. Historically, the 85-acre area to the north of the berm was used for sedimentation and disposal, and the 29-acre area to the south of the berm was used for final sedimentation “polishing” and water detention.

## **III. Structural Integrity Assessment**

### **A. Liner Design Criteria – 40 CFR §257.71**

For existing CCR surface impoundments constructed with liner systems, an owner/operator of such units must determine if such liner complies with the specified design and performance standards. At Rush Island, the RCPA was constructed without a liner system and is an unlined surface impoundment.

**1. Engineering Certification – Liner Design Criteria for Existing CCR Surface Impoundments**

The existing CCR surface impoundment RCPA at the Rush Island Energy Center was evaluated to determine if it was constructed with a liner which meets the requirements of §257.71, Liner Design Criteria for Existing CCR Surface Impoundments. The existing liner system does not have a 2-foot layer of compacted soil with hydraulic conductivity of no more than  $1 \times 10^{-7}$  cm/sec.

CCR Unit	Existing liner meets requirements of 40 CFR 257.71
RCPA	No

**Engineer's Seal**



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### C. Periodic Hazard Potential Classification – 40 CFR §257.73(a)(2)

Every five (5) years, an owner or operator of a coal combustion residual (“CCR”) unit must update the hazard potential of CCR units and certify the results by a qualified professional engineer. The classification categories are based upon criteria established by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and range as follows: *low hazard potential, significant hazard potential, and high hazard potential*. The FEMA classification system categorizes a dam based on the probability of loss of human life and the impacts on economic, environmental, and lifeline facilities should the dam fail. The specific categories are defined as follows:

- (1) *High hazard potential CCR surface impoundment means a diked surface impoundment where failure or mis-operation will probably cause loss of human life.*
- (2) *Significant hazard potential CCR surface impoundment means a diked surface impoundment where failure or mis-operation results in no probable loss of human life, but can cause economic loss, environmental damage, disruption of lifeline facilities, or impact other concerns.*
- (3) *Low hazard potential CCR surface impoundment means a diked surface impoundment where failure or mis-operation results in no probable loss of human life and low economic and/or environmental losses. Losses are principally limited to the surface impoundment owner’s property.*

RCPA is classified as having a *low hazard potential* because any structural failure would not be expected to cause a loss of human life.

- **RCPA** - Failure of RCPA would result in the release of water and CCR into the Mississippi River and potentially Isle du Bois Creek. Any such failure should not cause loss of life or significant environmental impacts. The nearest dwelling is located 1.4 miles due west in an upland bluff area. Economic and lifeline losses of the impoundment would generally be limited to the owner.

Since RCPA is classified as low hazard potential, an emergency action plan does not need to be prepared. The hazard classification of this unit must be re-evaluated every five (5) years.

**1. Engineering Certification – Periodic Hazard Potential Classification**

The 2020 Periodic Hazard Potential Classification Assessment was conducted for active CCR surface impoundment RCPA at the Rush Island Energy Center was conducted in accordance with the requirements of 40 CFR 257.73(a). The CCR surface impoundment is low hazard potential because failure of the impoundment is not expected to cause a loss of human life or significant environmental impacts. Economic and lifeline losses are expected to be low. The hazard potential classification was completed in general accordance with Federal Guidelines for Dam Safety: Hazard Potential Classification for Dams by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (January 2004). The engineering support for this certification has been placed in the operating record.

CCR Unit	Hazard Potential Classification
RCPA	Low

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#### **D. Periodic Structure Stability Assessment – 40 CFR §257.73(d)**

The owner or operator of a CCR unit must inspect and certify that the design construction, operation and maintenance of a CCR unit are in accordance with good engineering practices. Such engineering assessment includes the following: stable foundations and abutments; slope protection to protect against surface erosion, wave action, and adverse effects of sudden drawdown; berm compaction is sufficient to withstand the range of loading conditions, including low pool of an adjacent water body or sudden drawdown; adequately vegetated slopes and surrounding areas; adequate spillway capacity, operation and maintenance; spillways constructed, operated, and maintained to adequately manage the design flow event; and structural integrity and functionality of hydraulic structures underlying the base of CCR unit or passing through the dike.

The RCPA upstream slopes are lined with closure turf. The downstream slopes are primarily armored with riprap. A small section of the downstream slopes is vegetated for erosion protection. Vegetative management protocols are set forth in the Operations and Maintenance Procedures and have been implemented to minimize erosion while facilitating the visibility of slopes during inspections.

The engineering team reviewed pertinent geotechnical data. The team also visually inspected the interior and exterior embankment slopes, and adjacent foundation soil of the RCPA for signs of instability. None were observed. The hydraulic structures (i.e. spillways, overflow pipes and ditches) have been abandoned or removed as part of the RCPA's closure. Rainfall within the footprint of the impoundment is routed to 9 non-contact stormwater outlets through the perimeter embankment. The outlets were installed and functional during the inspection. Recommended and ongoing activities include general maintenance (i.e. additional inspections after completion of closure, seeding for vegetative cover, erosion repair).

**1. Engineering Certification – Periodic Structural Stability Assessment**

The 2020 Periodic Structural Stability Assessment was conducted for the active CCR surface impoundment RCPA at the Rush Island Energy Center. The structural stability assessment was completed in general accordance with 40 CFR Part §257.73(d)(1). Assessment of the Unit found no structural stability deficiencies, no significant issues with the current operations and maintenance, and that the design and construction are adequate, however some corrective measures were recommended.

Requirement	RCPA
Periodic assessment was completed in general accordance with the requirements of 40 CFR Part §257.73(d)(1)	Yes

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**E. Safety Factor Assessment – 40 CFR §257.73(e)**

All active CCR units must have calculated Factors of Safety (FOS) that meet or exceed the following designated values:

**Table 1**

<b>Loading Conditions</b>	<b>Minimum FOS</b>
Maximum Storage Pool	1.50
Maximum Surcharge Pool	1.40
Seismic	1.00
Liquefaction	1.20

The initial periodic safety factor assessment for RCPA was completed in October 2016. The initial assessment found that the calculated factors of safety for the critical cross-section exceed the minimum factors of safety for each loading condition required by 40 CFR §257.73(e). The RCPA no longer receives CCRs, has been dewatered and is currently being closed. A safety factor assessment for the closed condition has been performed by Haley & Aldrich. Their assessment found that the static and seismic stability factors of safety meet or exceed the minimum requirements.

**F. Hydrologic and Hydraulic Capacity Requirements - 40 CFR §257.82**

Flood control system plans must be adequate to manage the inflow from a designated flood event. Such plans must be updated and verified every five (5) years. The inflow design flood control system must adequately manage flow into the CCR unit during and following the peak discharge from the design flood event.

Pertinent data regarding the active surface impoundment at Rush Island is set forth below:

**Table 2**

<b>CCR Unit</b>	<b>Maximum Surface Area (acres)</b>	<b>Levee Crest Elevation (feet)</b>	<b>Crest Length (feet)</b>	<b>Normal Pool Elevation (feet)</b>	<b>Maximum Surcharge Pool (feet)</b>	<b>Upstream Slope Steepness (H:V)</b>	<b>Downstream Slope Steepness (H:V)</b>
<b>RCPA</b>	114	408.2 to 412.2	9750	NA	NA	3H:1V	3H:1V

RCPA has been dewatered and is currently being closed. Closure of RCPA was designed by Haley & Aldrich so that water is not permanently impounded within the perimeter embankment. The interior of the RCPA has been graded and capped to route non-contact stormwater to 9 locations around the perimeter embankment. Stormwater is discharged through gravity outlet pipes with stormwater management features to prevent erosion. As a result, an inflow design flood control system plan is no longer applicable or necessary for the RCPA.

## **IV. Construction Summary – 40 CFR 257.73(c)**

The Rush Island Energy Center is in southern Jefferson County, Missouri, in the Mississippi River floodplain. The plant is south of the City of Festus and north of the City of Bloomsdale. The Rush Island Energy Center has one surface impoundment, RCPA. The Rush Island Energy Center is located adjacent to the Mississippi River within 100-year floodplain at approximately river mile 139.5 above the mouth of the Ohio River. According to the current Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM), the regulatory 100-year flood elevation at the site is el. 405 to 406 feet. The Mississippi River is to the east of the CCR unit. Isle du Bois Creek runs along the south side of the CCR unit. The stormwater outlets from the facility discharge into both Isle du Bois Creek and the Mississippi River.

### **A. Owner and Operator**

The CCR Unit at the Rush Island Energy Center is owned and operated by Ameren Missouri. Rush Island Energy Center plant personnel have the primary responsibility of CCR unit operation. The Rush Island Energy Center is located at 100 Big Hollow Road in Festus, Missouri 63028. The Ameren Missouri Dam Safety Group performs CCR unit inspections and reviews all updates to the Operations and Maintenance Manual.

### **B. RCPA**

RCPA historically managed fly and bottom ash, process water and stormwater from the plant property. The RCPA no longer receives CCRs, has been dewatered and is currently being closed. The estimated maximum depth of CCR in the unit is approximately 92 feet.

#### **a. Foundation and Abutment Geology**

The foundation soils generally consist of an upper stratum of clays and silts 10 to 30 feet thick underlain by fine to coarse sand about 80 to 120 feet thick. Some gravel exists in the lower part of the sand stratum. Silt and clay lenses are also present in the sand formation. Limestone rock exists beneath the alluvium, and the depth to rock generally decreases from east to west.

#### **b. Embankment Material**

There are no construction documents or records for the RCPA ring dam. The embankment fill was constructed of the less permeable material excavated from the interior of the impoundment. Borings through the embankment show the embankment fill generally consists of clays and silts with varying amounts of sand.

#### **c. RCPA Modifications**

##### **1. 1991 Ash Pond Discharge, Piping & Sampling Modifications**

The original plans for the principal spillway reflect two, 36-inch diameter CMP conduits. Per 1991 as-built plans, the northern most conduit was slip-lined with a 24-inch diameter HDPE pipe, along with new butterfly valves, duckbill valve, concrete headwall and anchor pad, and grouted riprap. The southern conduit was abandoned and grouted closed.

## *2. Ash Pond Interior Berm Construction*

During the period from 1999 to 2002, Ameren Missouri constructed from compacted bottom ash, an interior berm thereby dividing the ash pond into two segments. The north side is used primarily for settlement and ash disposal, and the south side for water detention and secondary settlement.

## *3. 2008 Monopole Construction*

In 2007 and 2008, Ameren Missouri constructed a transmission line across the plant property to serve an industrial facility located south of its property boundary. Transmission line towers are just upstream and adjacent to the embankment dam on the west side of the impoundment. The transmission line consists of monopole towers with drilled pier foundations. The bottoms of the tower foundations are at least 45 feet below the top of the dam. Geotechnical analysis indicates that such towers have no effect on pond stability.

## *4. 2010 Riprap Placement and Emergency Spillway Construction*

In 2010, Ameren Missouri installed riprap on portions of the upstream and downstream slopes to repair and prevent erosion. Approximately 180 lineal feet of riprap was installed on the downstream slopes and 1,300 lineal feet on the upstream slopes. The banks of the outlet channel were also armored with riprap. At the same time an emergency spillway was constructed near the northwest corner of the impoundment. The emergency spillway is a 75-foot-wide broad crested weir. Portions of the upstream and downstream slopes adjacent to the spillway are armored with riprap.

## *5. 2010 MDNR Permit Registration*

The RCPA was permitted as a Class III Industrial Water Retention Dam by MDNR in 2010. The surface impoundment was inspected in 2015 by the MDNR Dam and Reservoir Safety Program and the operating permit was extended for 5 years to 2020.

## *6. 2013 Isle du Bois Creek Bank Erosion Repairs*

On January 31, 2013 and following a high flow event on the Isle du Bois Creek, significant bank erosion occurred near the creek's confluence with the Mississippi River. Bank erosion occurred on an outside bend in the creek just before the confluence, which encroached upon the south side of the RCPA embankment and caused sloughing of the downstream slope. Ameren rebuilt the eroded section by first constructing a riprap dike to prevent further erosion, and then placing compacted soil fill behind the dike.

## *7. 2015 Slope Rehabilitation*

An inspection in early 2015 identified erosion features and a small shallow slide on the east embankment slope. Approximately 1,500 lineal feet of the east embankment downstream slope was graded so that the slope was uniformly 3H to 1V and armored with riprap. The extents of the shallow slide were excavated, and the slope rebuilt with fill compacted in lifts. In addition, woody vegetation was cleared on the west side of the embankment.

## 8. 2015 Slurry Wall and Operational Changes

To address seepage occurring at the toe of the downstream slope on the east side of the pond, in 2015 a slurry wall approximately 1,300 feet long and 30 feet deep was constructed. The wall started approximately 75 feet north of the double swing gate and continued south. A “wetting head” used to condition and pneumatically transport fly ash was subsequently relocated further inside of the pond.

## 9. Closure Construction (2019 to 2021)

Closure of RCPA was initiated in 2019 and is planned to be complete in 2021. Closure includes grading the remaining exposed CCR to facilitate drainage and capping the CCR with Closure Turf. The principal and emergency spillways have been abandoned or removed during closure. Stormwater is routed to 9 non-contact stormwater outlets through the perimeter embankment.

### C. Surveillance, Maintenance and Repair of the CCR Units

The Operations and Maintenance Manual outlines objectives, responsibilities, and procedures for Ameren personnel who are responsible for the management of the CCR units. The embankments of the CCR units are visually inspected weekly by Ameren plant operations staff. Ameren Missouri Dam Safety Group personnel perform annual inspections and periodic inspections<sup>1</sup> or assessments with plant operations staff. In addition, the Ameren Missouri Dam Safety Group may conduct unannounced safety inspections.

The Operations and Maintenance Manual requires that timely repairs must be made after problem areas are identified. The plant engineer is to specify the work to be completed using Ameren’s Work Control Process and provide direction to correct items noted in the operation and maintenance, and engineering inspections. The work request by the plant engineer will be reviewed with the Dam Safety Group to ensure proper emphasis has been placed on the request. The Operations and Maintenance Manual specifies the minimum maintenance activities and requires that maintenance activities be documented. The Operations and Maintenance Manual further specifies that no alterations or repairs to structural elements should be made without the approval of the Chief Dam Safety Engineer and the concurrence of the MDNR Water Resources Center.

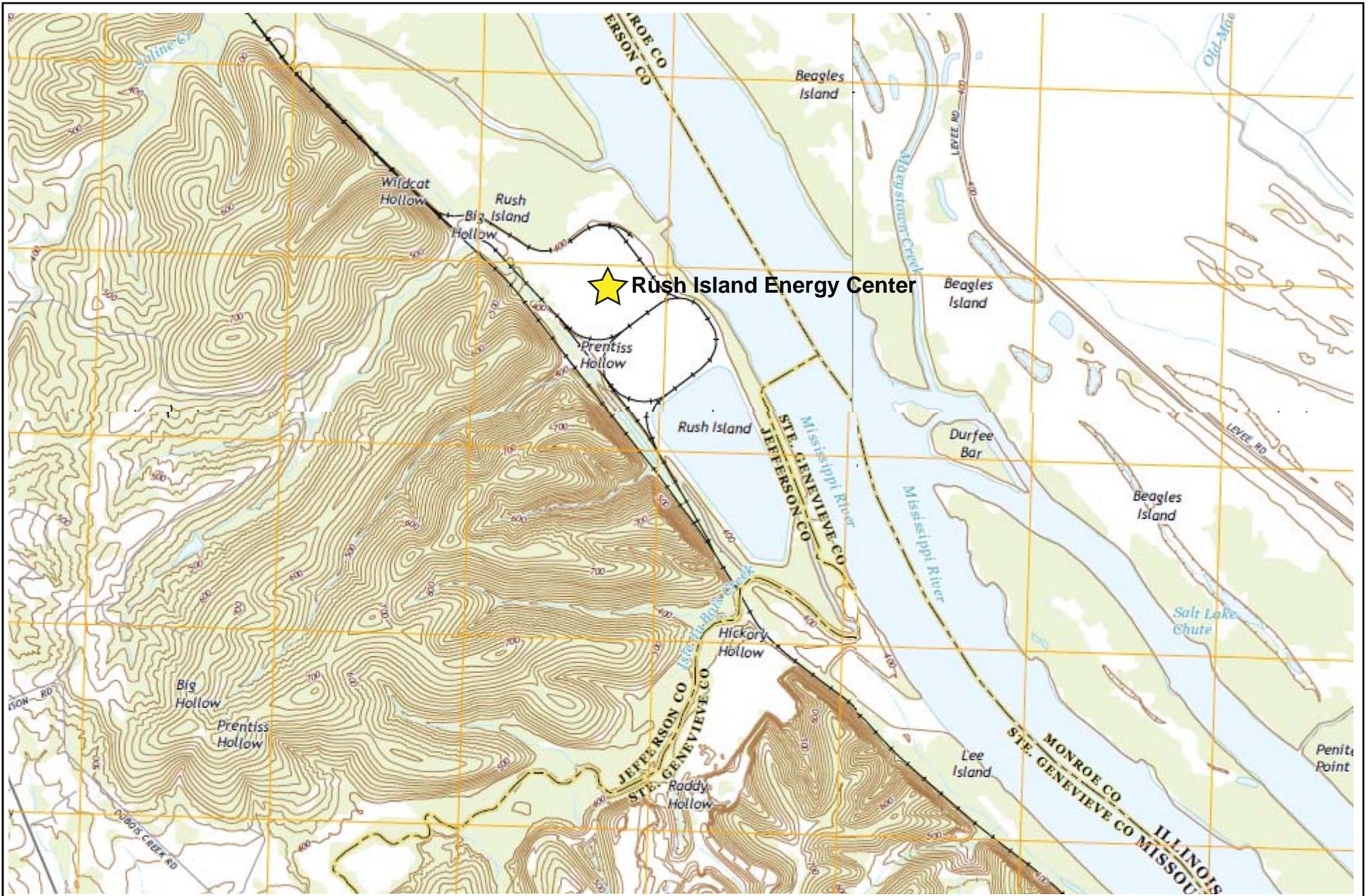
### D. Instrumentation

The RCPA has been dewatered and is currently being closed. The staff gage used for monitoring the RCPA pool level has been removed during closure.

Piezometers and monitoring wells have been installed upstream and downstream of the embankment for water level monitoring and groundwater sampling. Water level readings are maintained in Ameren’s facility operating records.

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<sup>2</sup> The annual and periodic inspection reports contain the following information: depth of impounded water; storage capacity; modifications from last inspection, if any, CCR depth; volume of impounded water and CCR; changes to the downstream watershed, if any.



Ameren Missouri  
Rush Island Energy Center  
CCR Unit Evaluation  
USGS 7.5 minute quadrangle map



**Legend:**

- Pond Footprint
- ⇨ Primary Flow Path
- ⇨ Emergency Spillway Flow Path

CCR UNIT	MAXIMUM SURFACE ELEVATION (ACRES)	DAM CREST ELEVATION (FEET)	CREST LENGTH (FEET)	NORMAL POOL ELEVATION (FEET)	MAXIMUM SURCHARGE POOL (FEET)	UPSTREAM SLOPE STEEPNESS (H:V)	DOWNSTREAM SLOPE STEEPNESS (H:V)
RCPA	114.0	408.2 to 412.2	9750	398.0	404.6	3H:1V	3H:1V

Ameren Missouri  
 Rush Island Energy Center  
 CCR Unit Evaluation  
 Figure 2 - Operational Data