

**LOCATION RESTRICTION DEMONSTRATION  
WETLANDS (40 C.F.R. 257.61)  
PLANT SMITH ASH POND  
GULF POWER COMPANY**

EPA's "Disposal of Coal Combustion Residuals from Electric Utilities" Final Rule (40 C.F.R. Part 257 and Part 261), requires the owner or operator of an existing CCR surface impoundment to make a demonstration that the facility meets certain location restrictions. Per §257.61 the owner or operator must demonstrate that the facility is not located within a wetland; otherwise, a demonstration must be made that certain criteria are met, as outlined in §257.61(a)(1). Wetlands, as defined in 40 C.F.R. 232.2, means those areas that are inundated or saturated by surface or groundwater at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions.

The CCR surface impoundment, referred to as the Ash Pond, is located at Gulf Power Company's Plant Smith near Southport, Florida. There is no documented record of wetlands having been located within the footprint of the facility. The CCR unit has been in operation since the 1960s. Operation of the facility does not cause or contribute to:

- A violation of any applicable state or federal water quality standard;
- A violation of any applicable toxic effluent standard or prohibition under section 307 of the Clean Water Act;
- Jeopardize the continued existence of endangered or threatened species or result in the destruction or adverse modification of a critical habitat protected under the Endangered Species Act of 1973;
- A violation of any requirement under the Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act of 1972 for the protection of a marine sanctuary.

There has been no degradation of wetlands due to erosion, stability and migration of native wetland soils or fill materials used to support the Plant Smith Ash Pond.

The volume and chemical nature of the ash stored in the facility has not caused or contributed to degradation of wetlands.

Previous analyses have indicated that the CCR unit was constructed with perimeter embankments that are stable and meet all required minimum factors of safety outlined in the CCR rule. Therefore,

catastrophic release of CCR from the unit has not occurred during its years of operation and is not expected, and therefore no impacts to fish, wildlife or other aquatic resources or their habitat have occurred or are expected. The facility was assigned a Low Hazard Potential rating by EPA and its consultant during the 2010 structural assessment, thereby recognizing the low potential impact to surrounding areas in the event of a release.

I hereby certify that the wetlands location restriction demonstration was conducted in accordance with and meets the requirements of 40 C.F.R. §257.61.

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