

October 15, 2021

*Via Email*

Mr. Nicholas M. Reidenbach, P.E.  
Civil/Structural Principal Specialist Engineer  
DTE Energy  
One Energy Plaza  
Detroit, MI 48226

**Subject: Five-Year Regulatory Compliance Reporting: Hydrologic and Hydraulic Capacity Assessment  
Monroe Power Plant Fly Ash Basin Facility  
Monroe, MI**

Dear Mr. Reidenbach:

This letter report presents Geosyntec Consultants of Michigan, Inc.'s (Geosyntec's) five-year periodic hydrologic and hydraulic capacity assessment for DTE Electric Company's (DTE's) Monroe Power Plant Fly Ash Basin (FAB). The hydrologic and hydraulic capacity assessments are required under the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) Coal Combustion Residual (CCR) Rule (CCR Rule) published on 17 April 2015 40 CFR Parts 257 and 261). Under the CCR Rule, the FAB is an "existing surface impoundment" and must meet hydrologic and hydraulic capacity assessment per §257.82<sup>1</sup> of the CCR Rule.

This letter report presents an executive summary followed by details of the hydrologic and hydraulic capacity assessment.

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

A five-year periodic hydraulic capacity of the facility was completed using the design storm as required under §257.82(a)(3). The results of the analyses indicate that the FAB meets the hydraulic capacity requirements per §257.82. Geosyntec had also performed the initial

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<sup>1</sup> §257.82 – Hydrologic and Hydraulic Capacity Requirements for CCR Surface Impoundments.

hydraulic capacity assessment for the FAB and documented it in a letter report dated October 17, 2016 (Geosyntec, 2016)<sup>2</sup>.

## **HYDROLOGIC AND HYDRAULIC CAPACITY ASSESSMENT**

### **Requirements of the CCR Rule**

A hydraulic capacity analysis was conducted to assess whether the discharge structure, acting as the spillway, meets the requirements of §257.82 of the CCR Rule. The CCR Rule requires that:

- “(a)(1) The inflow design flood control system must adequately manage flow into the CCR unit during and following the peak discharge of the inflow design flood.*
- (a)(2) The inflow design flood control system must adequately manage flow from the CCR unit to collect and control the peak discharge resulting from the inflow design flood.*
- ...
- (c)(1) Inflow design flood control system plan. The owner or operator must prepare initial and periodic inflow design flood control system plans for the CCR unit according to the timeframes specified in paragraphs (c)(3) and (4) of this section. These plans must document how the inflow design flood control system has been designed and constructed to meet the requirements of this section...”*

### **Hydraulic Models and Inputs**

Geosyntec assigned the FAB a “Significant Hazard Potential” classification per §257.73(a)(2)<sup>3</sup>. Per the CCR Rule, the FAB must adequately manage peak discharge from a 1,000-yr flood event. However, the peak discharge was estimated based on the more conservative Probable Maximum Flood (PMF).

The combination of available storage volume within the FAB and the hydraulic (flow) capacity of the discharge structure must be able to safely convey the expected peak flows during the PMF without overtopping the perimeter embankment. The assessment was conducted using the hydrologic model HEC-HMS (HEC-HMS, 2021) to simulate inflows into the FAB,

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<sup>2</sup> Geosyntec Consultants (2016), “Hydraulic Capacity Assessment, Monroe Power Plant Fly Ash Basin Facility, Monroe, MI,” Chicago, 2016.

<sup>3</sup> A separate letter is provided for the hazard potential classification for the Monroe Fly Ash Basin, which is considered to be a “Significant Hazard Potential”.

temporary runoff storage in the FAB, and outflow from the FAB via the discharge structure. HEC-HMS is hydrologic analysis software developed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers that is in the public domain and widely used for hydrologic modeling related to flood control and management, drainage, stormwater management, and dam and reservoir management.

The inflow design flood for the FAB was conservatively selected to be the PMF. The volume and peak flow of stormwater runoff during the PMF was calculated from a simulation of the Probable Maximum Precipitation (PMP) storm event.

The PMP data was taken from the PMP Study for Wisconsin and Michigan (EPRI, 1993). A 72-hour duration rainfall period was analyzed. The EPRI study published PMP depths for a range of durations up to 72 hours. The PMP depths for 6-hour and 24-hour periods are nested within the 72-hour PMP. The 72-hour PMP depth is 23.2 inches of rainfall. Most of the rainfall will occur within the peak 24 hours of the rainfall event.

It was assumed that all of the rainfall falling within the FAB will become direct runoff into the FAB meaning that no runoff reduction credit was taken for infiltration into the ground (conservative). It was also assumed that sluiced fly ash continues to be discharged to the FAB during the PMP storm event at a constant rate of 15 million gallons per day, or 23 cubic feet per second (fs). In addition to the constant sluiced fly ash rate, a constant flow of six cubic feet per second (cfs) was included in the simulation to represent the estimated maximum inflow from the stormwater pumping station. Therefore, the total constant inflow rate used per the simulation (in addition to variable stormwater runoff from the PMP) was 29 cfs, which includes a 23 cfs contribution from incoming fly ash slurry and 6 cfs from the stormwater pumping station. These constant inflow rates are the same as the 2016 model (Geosyntec, 2016) because there have not been any changes in these values through our communication with DTE in 2021.

After calculating the inflow, storage and outflow characteristics of the FAB were entered in HEC-HMS. The storage characteristics of the FAB are based on topographic and bathymetric data. A digital terrain model was constructed to calculate the storage data. Sources used in the creation of the digital terrain model include:

- Topographic mapping of existing above-water areas, based on the July 2021 aerial survey.
- Bathymetric mapping of existing below-water areas based on May 2021 bathymetry survey.

To simulate the hydraulic characteristics of the discharge structure, a rating curve or structure geometry must be entered into HEC-HMS. Because of the complexity of the discharge

structure, it could not be represented with one simple hydraulic element. The discharge structure hydraulics are evaluated using a combination of three different hydraulic controls:

- First, water must pass through openings cut into the sheet pile wall surrounding the discharge structure. These openings hydraulically function as submerged orifices. If the water level increases above 610.5 ft, it will flow through sheet pile weirs.
- Next, water passes through the stoplog/weir structures. There are three weir openings, with the bottom elevations controlled by raising or lowering the stoplogs.
- Finally, water enters three parallel 36-inch diameter steel pipes encased in concrete and is discharged to the east beyond the FAB.

A HEC-RAS (HEC-RAS, 2021) computer model was developed to simulate the hydraulic interactions and performance of this series of structures. HEC-RAS is widely used to simulate steady-state flow through artificial and natural waterways and structures such as culverts, bridges, channels, spillways, rivers, and gates. A series of different steady-state flows were simulated in HEC-RAS, ranging from 2 cubic feet per second to 250 cubic feet per second, and the pond water elevations corresponding to these flow rates were calculated. The pond water elevation for a specific flow rate corresponds to the hydraulic head necessary to push a specified flow rate through the discharge structure. These data were used to develop a storage-discharge curve for the HEC-HMS routing.

Following the construction of the HEC-HMS model, the model was used to simulate the hydraulic performance of the FAB during the PMF.

The discharge structure was modified in 2016 (prior to initial reporting) to operate more reliably during the PMF event. The drawing provided in Appendix A provides more information on discharge structure construction and modified geometry.

The analysis was conducted based on FAB operating water level of 609.0 ft and the discharge structure geometry.

The analysis considered that 42 linear feet of a section of the sheet pile wall is lowered to an elevation of 610.6 ft. It was assumed that the sheet pile underwater openings are 70% blocked and that the effective diameter of the outlet discharge pipes were reduced by 3.0 inches, to account for the 1.5-inch-thick deposits in the discharge pipes.

A starting water surface elevation of 609.0 ft was used, which is the normal operating elevation.

### **Analysis Results**

The PMF results in a peak water surface elevation of 612.57 ft, which leaves approximately 0.43 feet of freeboard relative to the lowest point on the existing embankment crest, which is at elevation 613.0 ft. This indicates that the PMF will be contained within the FAB. The peak outflow from the FAB would be approximately 169.34 cfs. Figure 1 shows how the water level is changed within the FAB during and after the PMP storm event.

### **Inflow Design Flood Control System Plan**

The FAB is encapsulated by an embankment that is up to 45 ft higher than the surrounding ground surface. The perimeter of the embankment defines the outer limits of the watershed, which is the plan area of rainfall. There is no outer watershed area that directly flows into the FAB. Inflow values have been previously described in the earlier section of this letter under “Hydraulic Models and Inputs”.

Stoplogs should be adjusted so that water level in the FAB is kept around elevation 609.0 ft.

### **QUALIFICATIONS OF LICENSED PROFESSIONAL ENGINEER**

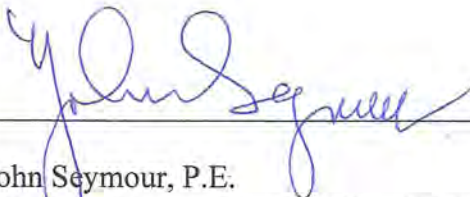
John Seymour is a qualified licensed professional engineer with over 40 years of experience in civil and geotechnical engineering associated with earthen structures and dams.

Mr. Nicholas M. Reidenbach  
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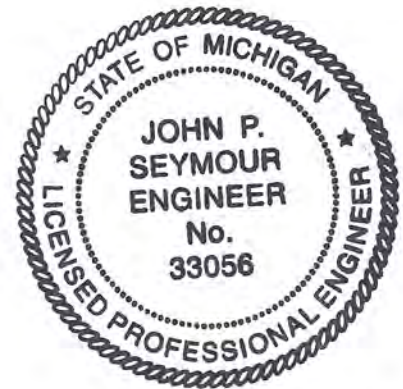
## CERTIFICATION

I, John Seymour, am a qualified licensed professional engineer in Michigan have evaluated the FAB and hereby certify that the results of the hydraulic analysis meet the requirements of 40 CFR 257.82 and the FAB manages the design storm leaving 0.43 feet of freeboard.

Certified by:

 Date 10/15/2021

John Seymour, P.E.  
Michigan License Number 620103356  
Senior Principal



Attachments: Figure 1  
Appendix A

Copies to: Mark Green (DTE)  
Christopher Scieszka (DTE)  
Lisa Lockwood (DTE)

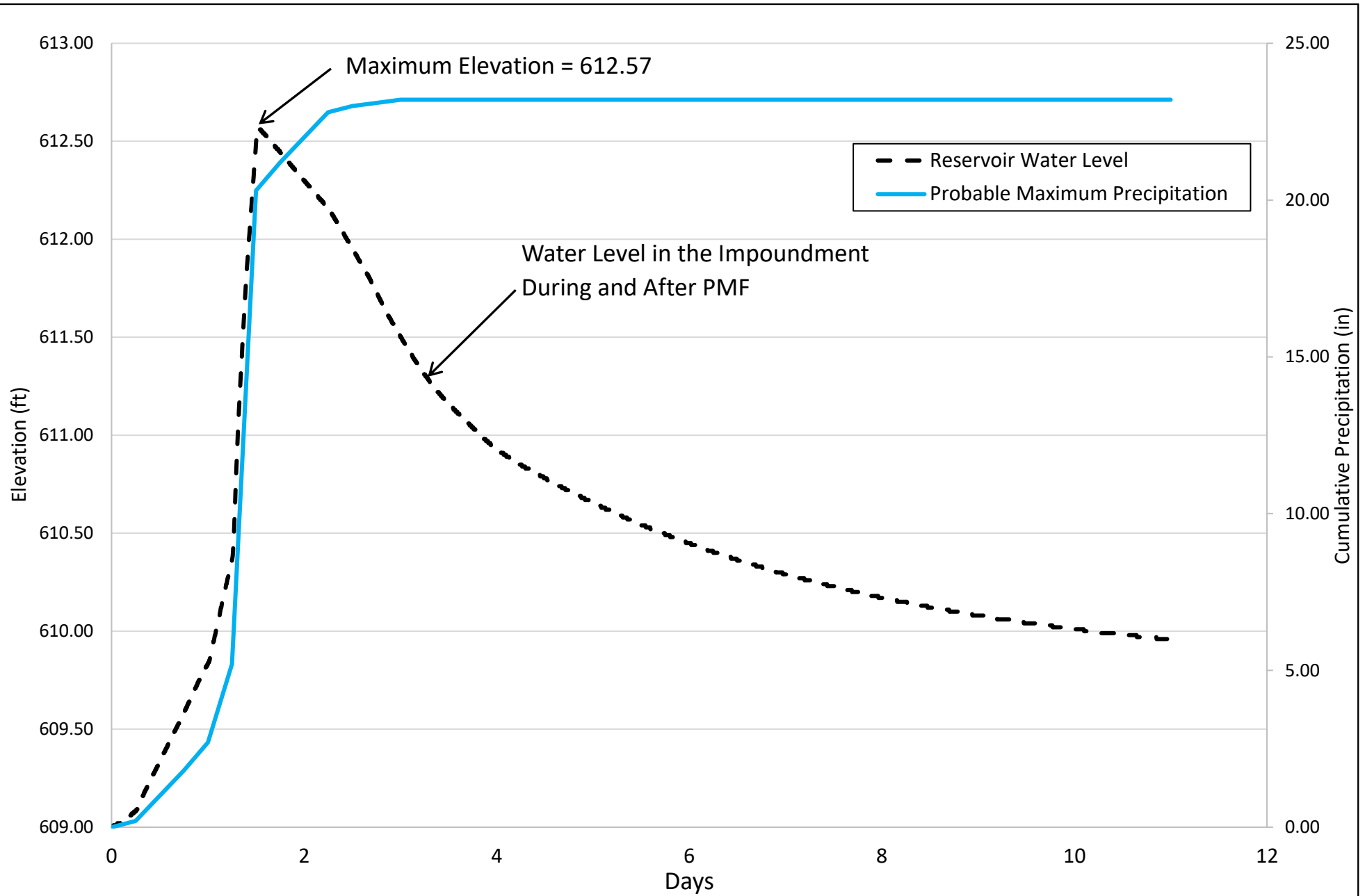
## REFERENCES

Geosyntec Consultants (2016), “Hydraulic Capacity Assessment, Monroe Power Plant FAB Facility, Monroe, MI,” Chicago, 2016.

Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI) (1993), “Probable Maximum Precipitation Study for Wisconsin and Michigan”, EPRI Technical Report TR-101554

HEC-RAS software (2021), Public domain software published by U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Version 6.0.0, <https://www.hec.usace.army.mil/software/hecras/>

HEC-HMS software (2021), Public domain software published by U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Version 4.8, <https://www.hec.usace.army.mil/software/hechms/>



### Change in Ash Basin Water Elevation During and After PMF

Monroe Ash Basin Hydraulic Capacity Assessment  
(September 2021)

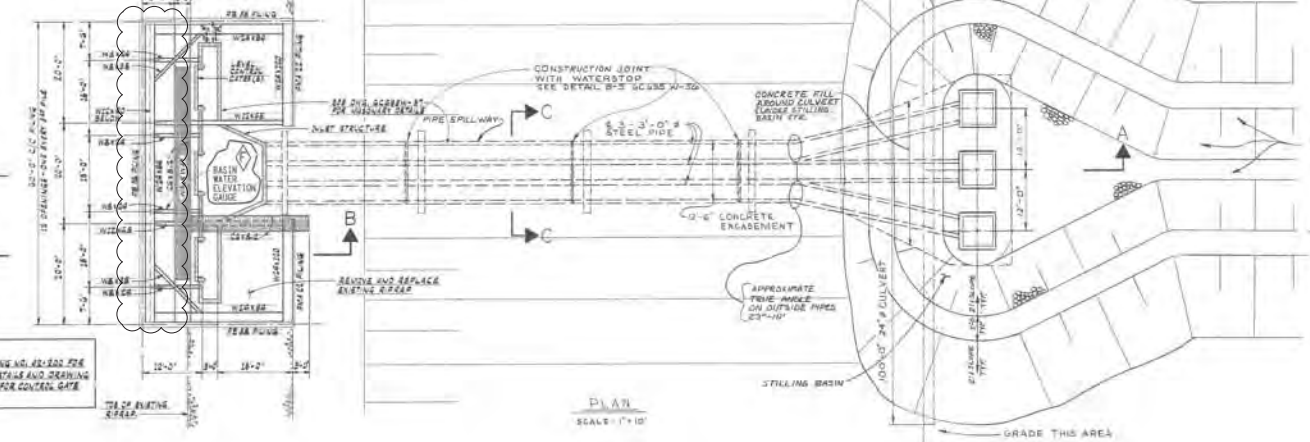


Figure 1

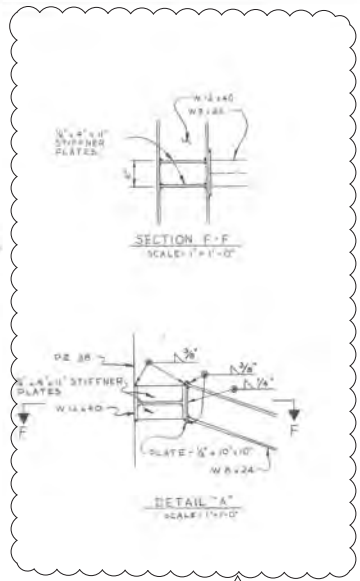


# **APPENDIX A**

FOR MODIFICATIONS SEE DRAWING: 0695-C-W-0056-001

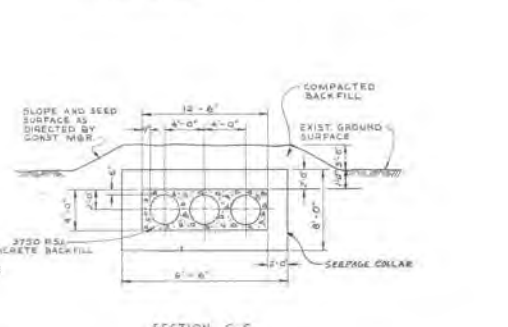
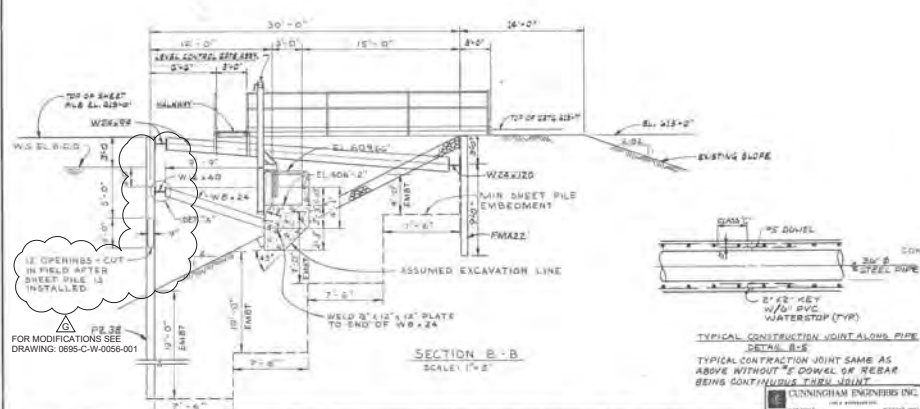
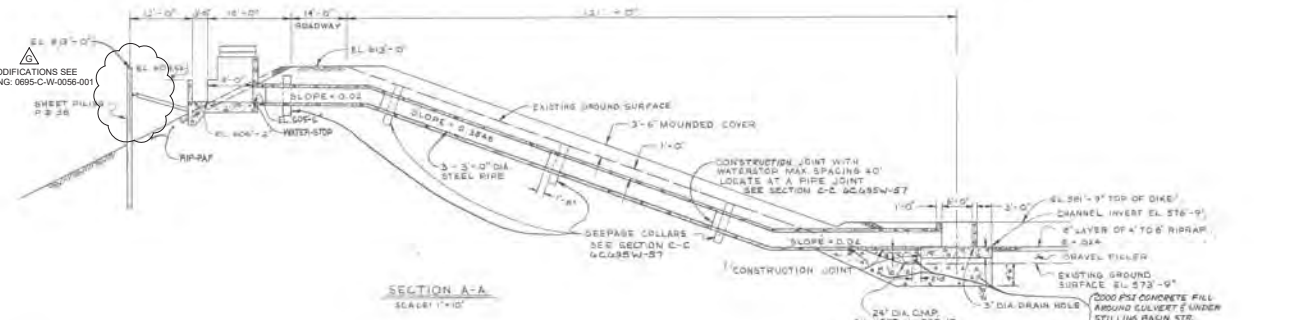


**NOTE:**  
SEE DRAWING NO. 0695-C-W-0056-001 FOR WALKWAY DETAILS AND DRAWING NO. 0695-C-W-0056-001 FOR CONTROL GATE DETAILS.



FOR MODIFICATIONS SEE DRAWING: 0695-C-W-0056-001

FOR MODIFICATIONS SEE DRAWING: 0695-C-W-0056-001



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LATEST REVISION  
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DESIGNED BY: D. J. CAMPAN PE 20906  
COMMONWEALTH ASSOCIATES, INC.  
200 E. WASHINGTON AVE. JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI 39201  
DATE: 11/15/11

NO.	DATE	BY	CHKD.	DESCRIPTION
1	11/15/11	D. J. CAMPAN	C. T. BERGMAN	ISSUE LAYOUT - ON-SITE 3-D ASH DISPOSAL FACILITY DISCHARGE STRUCTURE WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT
2	11/15/11	D. J. CAMPAN	C. T. BERGMAN	ISSUE LAYOUT - ON-SITE 3-D ASH DISPOSAL FACILITY DISCHARGE STRUCTURE WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT
3	11/15/11	D. J. CAMPAN	C. T. BERGMAN	ISSUE LAYOUT - ON-SITE 3-D ASH DISPOSAL FACILITY DISCHARGE STRUCTURE WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT
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