

## Coal Ash Basin Closures: Water Removal

- The electric power industry is beginning to permanently close, where applicable, the basins where coal ash is stored, in ways that put safety first, protect the environment, minimize impacts to communities, and manage costs for customers.
- Closing a coal ash basin involves the removal of water from the basin in a process called dewatering. The dewatering and subsequent ash management measures help stabilize and compact the ash so it can be safely left in place and the basin is closed or removed for disposal at another location.
- Steps to remove the water from a basin include:
  1. Water treatment – Water treatment may include a multi-step process that is much like the water treatment process at a municipal drinking water facility. Water is typically chemically treated, filtered, and then pumped or vacuumed out of the basin.
  2. Water testing and monitoring – All water is tested to ensure that it meets applicable discharge standards in accordance with federal, state, and local water regulations (including applicable National Pollution Discharge Elimination System permits that may include treatment and monitoring requirements).
  3. Water discharge – Treated water is released in accordance with applicable federal, state, and local water regulations and standards.

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