

**Pirkey Power Plant
West Bottom Ash Pond
Alternate Source Demonstration**

The Pirkey West Bottom Ash Pond initiated an assessment monitoring program in accordance with 40 CFR 257.95 on April 3, 2018. Groundwater protection standards (GWPS) were set in accordance with 257.95(d)(2) and a statistical evaluation of the assessment monitoring data was conducted. The statistical evaluation revealed an exceedance of the cobalt GWPS on January 3, 2020. A successful alternate source demonstration (ASD) was completed per 257.95(g)(3), therefore, the Pirkey West Bottom Ash Pond will remain in assessment monitoring. An alternate source demonstration is documentation that shows a source other than the CCR unit was responsible for causing the statistics to exceed the GWPS. The ASD document will explain the alternate cause of the GWPS exceedance. The successful ASD is attached.

**ALTERNATIVE SOURCE
DEMONSTRATION REPORT
FEDERAL CCR RULE**

**H.W. Pirkey Power Plant
West Bottom Ash Pond
Hallsville, Texas**

Submitted to



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LIST OF ACRONYMS

AEP	American Electric Power
ASD	Alternative Source Demonstration
CCR	Coal Combustion Residuals
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
EBAP	East Bottom Ash Pond
EDS	Energy Dispersive Spectroscopy
EPRI	Electric Power Research Institute
GSC	Groundwater Stats Consulting, LLC
GWPS	Groundwater Protection Standard
LCL	Lower Confidence Limit
MCL	Maximum Contaminant Level
QA	Quality Assurance
QC	Quality Control
SEM	Scanning Electron Microscopy
SPLP	Synthetic Precipitation Leaching Procedure
SSL	Statistically Significant Level
UTL	Upper Tolerance Limit
USEPA	United States Environmental Protection Agency
VAP	Vertical Aquifer Profiling
WBAP	West Bottom Ash Pond
XRD	X-Ray Diffraction

SECTION 1

INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY

The H.W. Pirkey Plant, located in Hallsville, Texas, has four regulated coal combustion residuals (CCR) storage units, including the West Bottom Ash Pond (WBAP, Figure 1). In August 2019, a semi-annual assessment monitoring event was conducted at the WBAP in accordance with 40 CFR 257.95(d)(1). The monitoring data were submitted to Groundwater Stats Consulting, LLC (GSC) for statistical analysis. Groundwater protection standards (GWPSs) were re-established for each Appendix IV parameter in accordance with the statistical analysis plan developed for the facility (AEP, 2017) and United States Environmental Protection Agency's (USEPA) *Statistical Analysis of Groundwater Monitoring Data at RCRA Facilities – Unified Guidance* (Unified Guidance; USEPA, 2009). The GWPS for each parameter was established as the greater of the background concentration and the maximum contaminant level (MCL) or, for constituents without an MCL, the risk-based level specified in 40 CFR 257.95(h)(2). To determine background concentrations, an upper tolerance limit (UTL) was calculated using pooled data from the background wells collected during the background monitoring and assessment monitoring events.

Confidence intervals were re-calculated for Appendix IV parameters at the compliance wells to assess whether Appendix IV parameters were present at a statistically significant level (SSL) above the GWPSs. An SSL was concluded if the lower confidence limit (LCL) of a parameter exceeded the GWPS (i.e., if the entire confidence interval exceeded the GWPS). At the WBAP, an SSL was identified for cobalt at AD-28, where the LCL of 0.0132 milligrams per liter (mg/L) exceeded the calculated GWPS of 0.009 mg/L (Geosyntec, 2020). No other SSLs were identified.

1.1 CCR Rule Requirements

USEPA regulations regarding assessment monitoring programs for coal combustion residuals CCR landfills and surface impoundments provide owners and operators with the option to make an alternative source demonstration when an SSL is identified (40 CFR 257.95(g)(3)(ii)). An owner or operator may:

Demonstrate that a source other than the CCR unit caused the contamination, or that the statistically significant increase resulted from error in sampling, analysis, statistical evaluation, or natural variation in groundwater quality. Any such demonstration must be supported by a report that includes the factual or evidentiary basis for any conclusions and must be certified to be accurate by a qualified professional engineer or approval from the Participating State Director or approval from EPA where EPA is the permitting authority. If a successful demonstration is made, the owner or operator must continue monitoring in accordance with the assessment monitoring program pursuant to this section....

Pursuant to 40 CFR 257.95(g)(3)(ii), Geosyntec Consultants, Inc. (Geosyntec) has prepared this Alternative Source Demonstration (ASD) report to document that the SSL identified for cobalt at AD-28 is from a source other than the WBAP.

1.2 Demonstration of Alternative Sources

An evaluation was completed to assess possible alternative sources to which the identified SSL could be attributed. Alternative sources were identified amongst five types, based on methodology provided by EPRI (2017):

- ASD Type I: Sampling Causes;
- ASD Type II: Laboratory Causes;
- ASD Type III: Statistical Evaluation Causes;
- ASD Type IV: Natural Variation; and
- ASD Type V: Alternative Sources.

A demonstration was conducted to show that the SSL identified for cobalt at AD-28 was based on a Type IV cause and not by a release from the Pirkey WBAP.

SECTION 2

ALTERNATIVE SOURCE DEMONSTRATION

The Federal CCR Rule allows the owner or operator 90 days from the determination of an SSL to demonstrate that a source other than the CCR unit caused the SSL. The methodology used to evaluate the SSL identified for cobalt and the proposed alternative source are described below.

2.1 Proposed Alternative Source

An initial review of site geochemistry, site historical data, and laboratory quality assurance/quality control (QA/QC) data did not identify ASDs due to Type I (sampling), Type II (laboratory), or Type III (statistical evaluation) issues. As described below, the SSL has been attributed to natural variation associated with the underlying geology, which is a Type IV (natural variation) issue.

Monitoring well AD-28 is located near the southwest corner of the WBAP, as shown in Figure 1. Two previous ASDs for cobalt at the WBAP provided evidence to show that cobalt is present in the aquifer media at the site and that the observed cobalt concentrations were due to natural variation (Geosyntec, 2019a; Geosyntec, 2019b). The previous ASDs discussed how the WBAP itself did not appear to be a source for cobalt in downgradient groundwater, based on observed concentrations of cobalt both in the ash material and in leachate from Synthetic Precipitation Leaching Procedure (SPLP) analysis (SW-864 Test Method 1312, [USEPA, 1994]) of the ash material. Cobalt was not detected in the SPLP leachate above the reporting limit of 0.01 mg/L. Because cobalt mobility is affected by pH, the SPLP test results are likely even more conservative than actual pond conditions. SPLP is run at a pH of 5 SU, whereas the operational pH of the pond varies between approximately 5.8 and 7.0 SU. Cobalt mobility increases under more acidic conditions, although even at a pH of approximately 5, only 2% of cobalt in fly ash is mobile (Izquierdo and Querol, 2012).

Cobalt was also not detected above the reporting limit of 0.005 mg/L in a grab sample of the pond water. As shown in Table 1, the reporting limits for the SPLP ash leachate test and pond water analysis are both below the average concentration of cobalt for samples collected at AD-28 for compliance under the Federal CCR Rule (0.0145 mg/L). Since the previous ASD was prepared, there have been no notable changes in coal handling or sourcing at the plant that would have affected the composition of the ash or pond water.

Four additional permanent wells (B-2, B-3, AD-40, and AD-41) were installed upgradient of the WBAP in 2019. These upgradient locations were selected to represent conditions at the facility which are unimpacted by site operations. The most recent data available for select wells in the vicinity of the WBAP, as well as the upgradient locations, are shown in Figure 2. Groundwater cobalt concentrations at upgradient locations vary from 0.000799 mg/L to 0.0345 mg/L at AD-40 and B-3, respectively. This wide range in cobalt concentrations provides further evidence for the natural variation of cobalt at the Site, particularly as the concentrations at upgradient well B-3

exceed both the GWPS for the WBAP and the LCL calculated for cobalt at AD-28 (the well of interest).

As noted in the previous two ASDs, soil samples collected across the site, including from locations near the WBAP, identified cobalt in the aquifer solids at varying concentrations. While no additional soil samples were collected in support of this ASD, soil sampling data from select upgradient and downgradient locations from the previous investigations are summarized in Table 2 and Figure 3. Cobalt was identified in the aquifer solids at varying concentrations, with the highest value of 23.5 milligrams per kilogram (mg/kg) reported at AD-41, which is upgradient of the WBAP (Figure 3). Other testing included collection of aquifer solids to evaluate for the presence of cobalt-containing minerals. X-ray diffraction evidence identified pyrite and marcasite (both iron sulfides) at select locations at concentrations up to 3% by weight (Table 2). Cobalt is known to substitute for iron in crystalline iron minerals such as pyrite and marcasite due to their similar ionic radii (Krupka and Serne, 2002; Hitzman et al., 2017).

Groundwater samples were collected from upgradient location B-3 via vertical aquifer profiling (VAP), as described in an ASD previously generated for the Pirkey Plant's East Bottom Ash Pond (EBAP; Geosyntec, 2019c). The VAP groundwater samples were centrifuged to separate solid and liquid phases, and the solid material was submitted for analysis of total metals and mineralogy by X-ray diffraction (XRD). The samples were also submitted for analysis of chemical composition and mineralogy by scanning electron microscopy (SEM) using an energy dispersive spectroscopic analyzer (EDS). Following installation of permanent monitoring wells at B-2 and B-3, groundwater samples were collected by purging groundwater through the filter pack using a submersible pump. An additional groundwater sample was collected at AD-30. These permanent well groundwater samples were filtered through a 1.5-micron filter, and the solid material retained on the filter was submitted for analysis of total metals and by SEM/EDS.

Based on total metals analysis, cobalt was identified both in the centrifuged solid material collected from upgradient VAP location B-3 [VAP-B3-(40-45)] and in the material retained on the filter after processing groundwater from permanent monitoring wells B-2 and B-3 (Table 2). Cobalt was detected in the solid material filtered out of groundwater at AD-30 at an estimated value of 9.3 mg/kg, which is comparable to the concentration observed in bulk soil collected at the same location at the screened interval (15 mg/kg). These results provide further evidence that cobalt concentrations reported during groundwater sampling are naturally occurring and associated with the solid phase in the aquifer.

According to XRD results of the centrifuged solid sample [VAP-B3-(40-45)], pyrite was present as approximately 3% of the solid phase (Table 3). Logging completed while the VAP boring was advanced identified coal at several intervals, including 45 and 48 ft bgs (Figure 4). Furthermore, SEM/EDS of both centrifuged solid samples [VAP-B3-(40-45) and VAP-B3-(50-55)] identified pyrite in backscattered electron micrographs by the distinctive framboid pattern (Harris et al., 1981; Sawlowicz, 2000). Major peaks involving iron and sulfur were identified in the EDS spectrum, which further support the identification of pyrite (Attachment A). While cobalt was not identified in the EDS spectrum, it is likely present at concentrations below the detection limit.

Pyrite was also identified during SEM/EDS analysis of lignite which is mined immediately adjacent to the site.

In addition to pyrite, hematite (an iron(III) oxide) was present at 2% of the centrifuged solid sample (Table 3). Weathering of pyrite to hematite is a known phenomenon in east Texas soils (Dixon, et al., 1982); the adsorption of cobalt to hematite is a documented mechanism which provides an additional pathway for cobalt to enter groundwater from the soil system (McLaren et al., 1986; Borggaard, 1987).

While soil analytical and mineralogical data are not available for AD-28, the wide distribution of iron minerals across the site suggests that naturally occurring cobalt, which is known to substitute for iron in pyrite or adsorb to hematite, may also be present in the aquifer solids near AD-28. The presence of lignite in the area is well-documented, including at upgradient and downgradient locations relative to the WBAP (Broom and Myers, 1966; ETTL, 2010). Additionally, the pond was not identified as the source of cobalt at AD-28 in the previous two ASDs based on the documented low mobility of cobalt under the pond conditions and lack of detectable cobalt in the pond itself.

2.2 Sampling Requirements

As the ASD presented above supports the position that the identified SSL is not due to a release from the Pirkey WBAP, the unit will remain in the assessment monitoring program. Groundwater at the unit will continue to be sampled for Appendix IV parameters on a semi-annual basis.

SECTION 3

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The preceding information serves as the ASD prepared in accordance with 40 CFR 257.95(g)(3)(ii) and supports the position that the SSL of cobalt for AD-28 identified during assessment monitoring in August 2019 was not due to a release from the WBAP. The identified SSL was, instead, attributed to natural variation in the underlying geology, including the presence of pyrite or marcasite and hematite in the solid aquifer material. Therefore, no further action is warranted, and the Pirkey WBAP will remain in the assessment monitoring program. Certification of this ASD by a qualified professional engineer is provided in Attachment B.

SECTION 4

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TABLES

**Table 1: Summary of Key Analytical Data
West Bottom Ash Pond - H.W. Pirkey Plant**

Sample	Unit	Cobalt Concentration
Bottom Ash	mg/kg	5.8
SPLP Leachate	mg/L	<0.01
WBAP Pond Water	mg/L	<0.005
AD-28 - Average	mg/L	0.0145

Notes:

mg/kg - milligram per kilogram

mg/L - milligram per liter

AD-28 - Average value was calculated using all cobalt data collected under 40 CFR 257 Subpart D.

**Table 2: Soil Cobalt and Mineralogy Data
West Bottom Ash Pond - H.W. Pirkey Plant**

Geosyntec Consultants, Inc.

Location ID	Sample Depth (ft bgs)	Cobalt (mg/kg)	Pyrite/Marcasite (%)
Bulk Soil Samples			
AD-17	7	3.10	2
	15	1.50	0
AD-18	8	3.60	1
	22	2.90	0
AD-30	7	1.00	3
	23	15.0	1
AD-31	12	1.90	2
	26	0.83	0
AD-32	11	1.70	--
	20-25	9.10	--
AD-41	15	< 1.0	--
	35	23.5	---
	95	1.90	---
B-2	10	2.36	---
	16	3.62	---
	71	10.30	---
	82	7.21	---
	87	3.11	---
B-3	10	1.30	---
	20	0.59	---
	97	1.11	---
Solid Material Retained After Filtration			
AD-30	15-25	9.3 J	--
B-2	38-48	4.3 J	--
B-3	29-34	12.0	--
	VAP 40-45	18.0	3

Notes:

'--' - analysis not completed

mg/kg- milligram per kilogram

ft bgs - feet below ground surface

J = estimated value

For AD-XX locations, samples were collected from additional boreholes advanced in the immediate area of the location identified by the well ID. Samples were not collected from the cuttings of the borings advanced for well installation. Samples for B-X locations were collected from cores removed from the borehole during well lithology logging.

Depths for samples collected after filtration represent the screened interval for the permanent well where the sample was collected.

Table 3: X-Ray Diffraction Results
West Bottom Ash Pond - H. W. Pirkey Plant

Geosyntec Consultants, Inc.

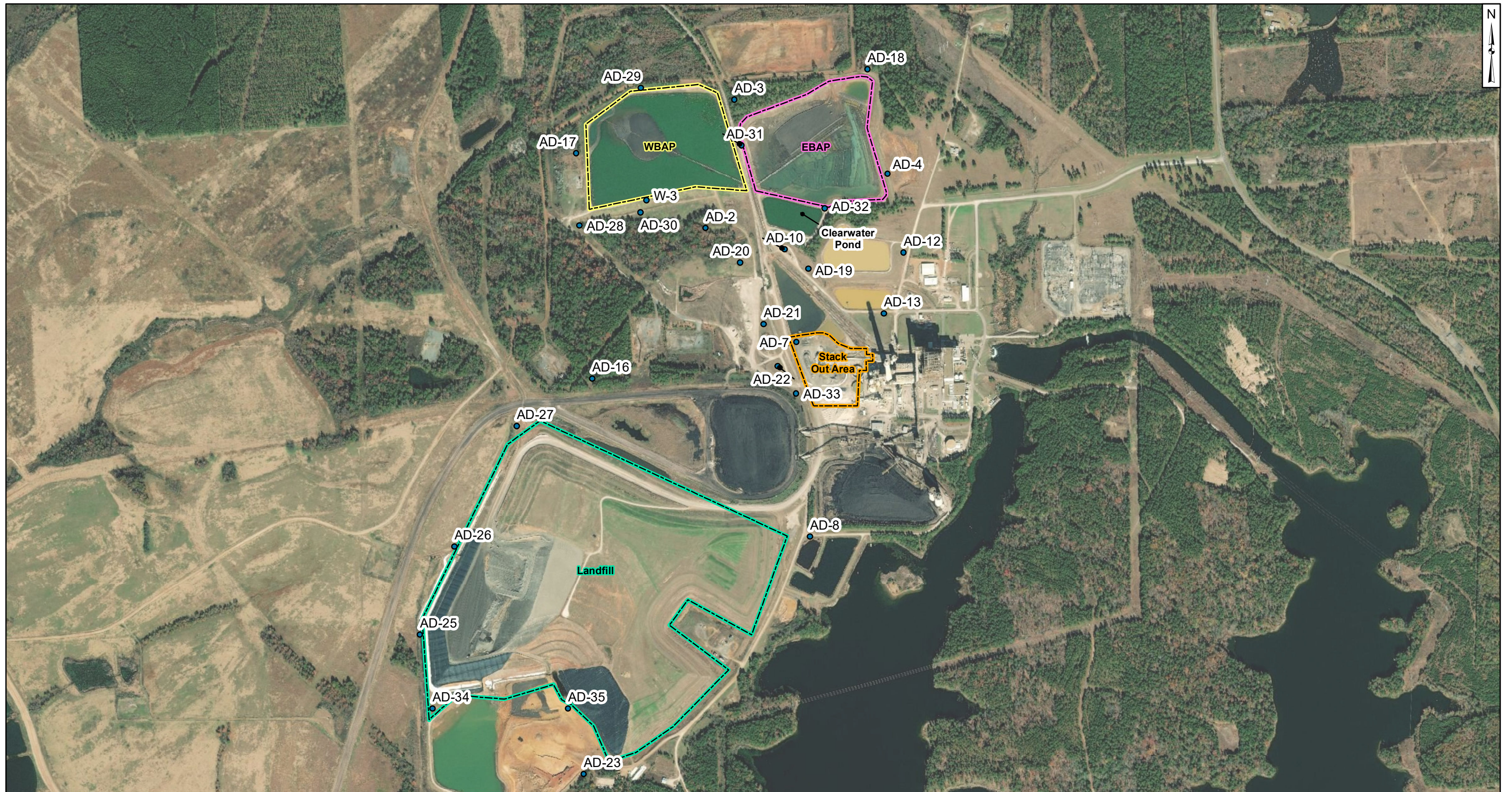
Constituent	VAP-B3-(40-45)
Quartz	15
Plagioclase Feldspar	0.5
Orthoclase	ND
Calcite	ND
Dolomite	ND
Siderite	0.5
Goethite	ND
Hematite	2
Pyrite	3
Kaolinite	42
Chlorite	4
Illite/Mica	6
Smectite	12
Amorphous	15

Notes:

ND: Not detected

VAP-B3-(40-45) is the centrifuged solid material from the groundwater sample collected at that interval.

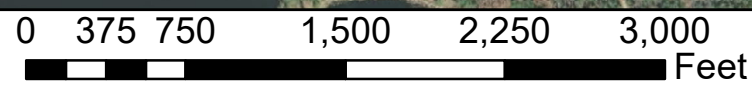
FIGURES



Legend

- Monitoring Wells
- EBAP
- Landfill
- Stack Out Area
- WBAP

Notes
 - Monitoring well coordinates provided by AEP.
 - Data provided by AEP, 2019



Site Layout

AEP Pirkey Power Plant
 Hallsville, Texas

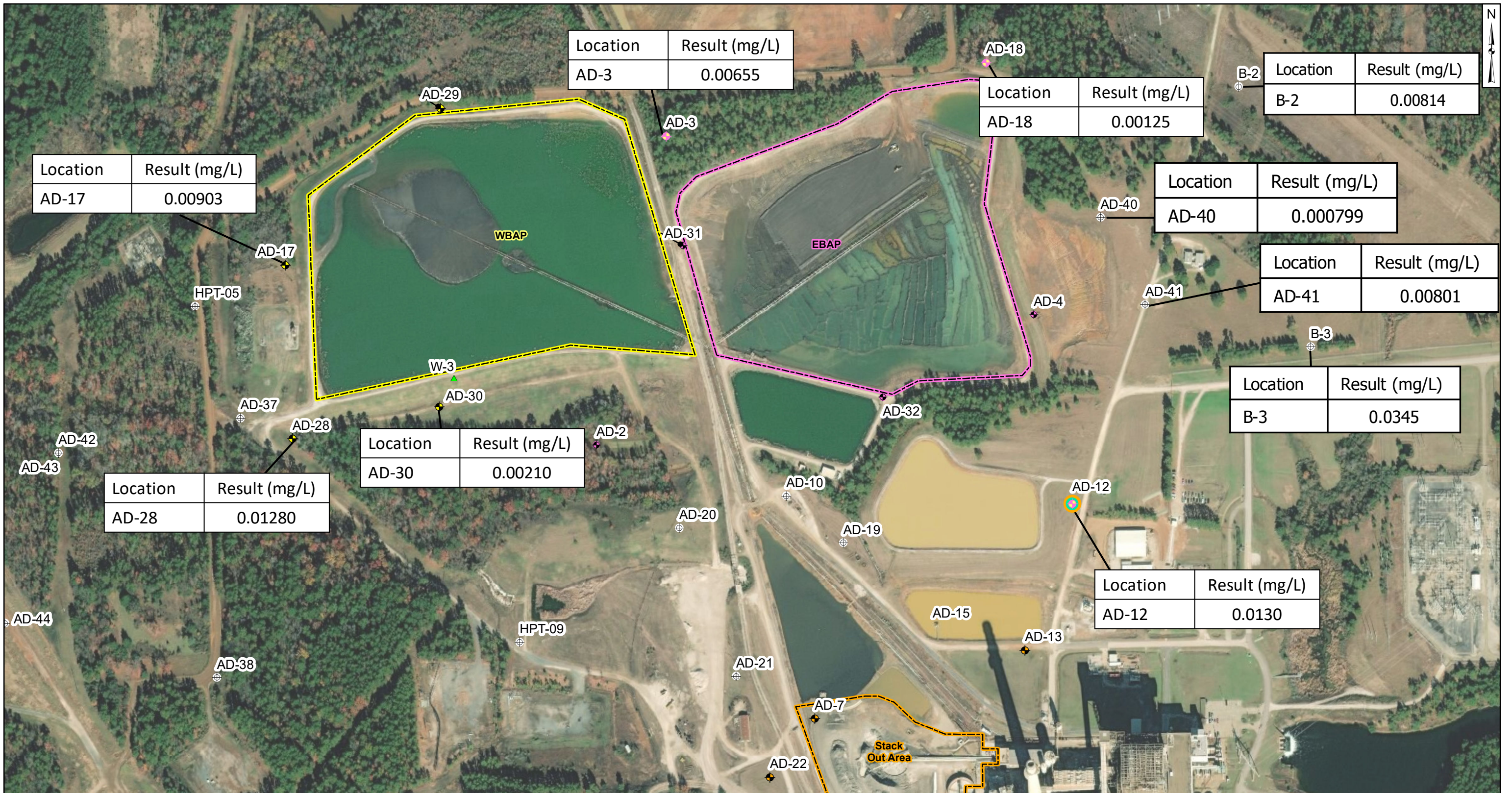
Geosyntec
 consultants

Columbus, Ohio

2020/03/24

Figure

1



Legend

- Out of Network
- Stackout Area
- EBAP
- EBAP
- EBAP and WBAP
- Stack Out Area
- WBAP
- All CCR Unit Networks
- WBAP
- Landfill
- Piezometer

Notes

- Monitoring well coordinates, site features, and data provided by AEP
- AD-15 location is approximated
- Samples collected in August 2019
- AD-29 included in the well network for water level measurements only

400 200 0 400 Feet

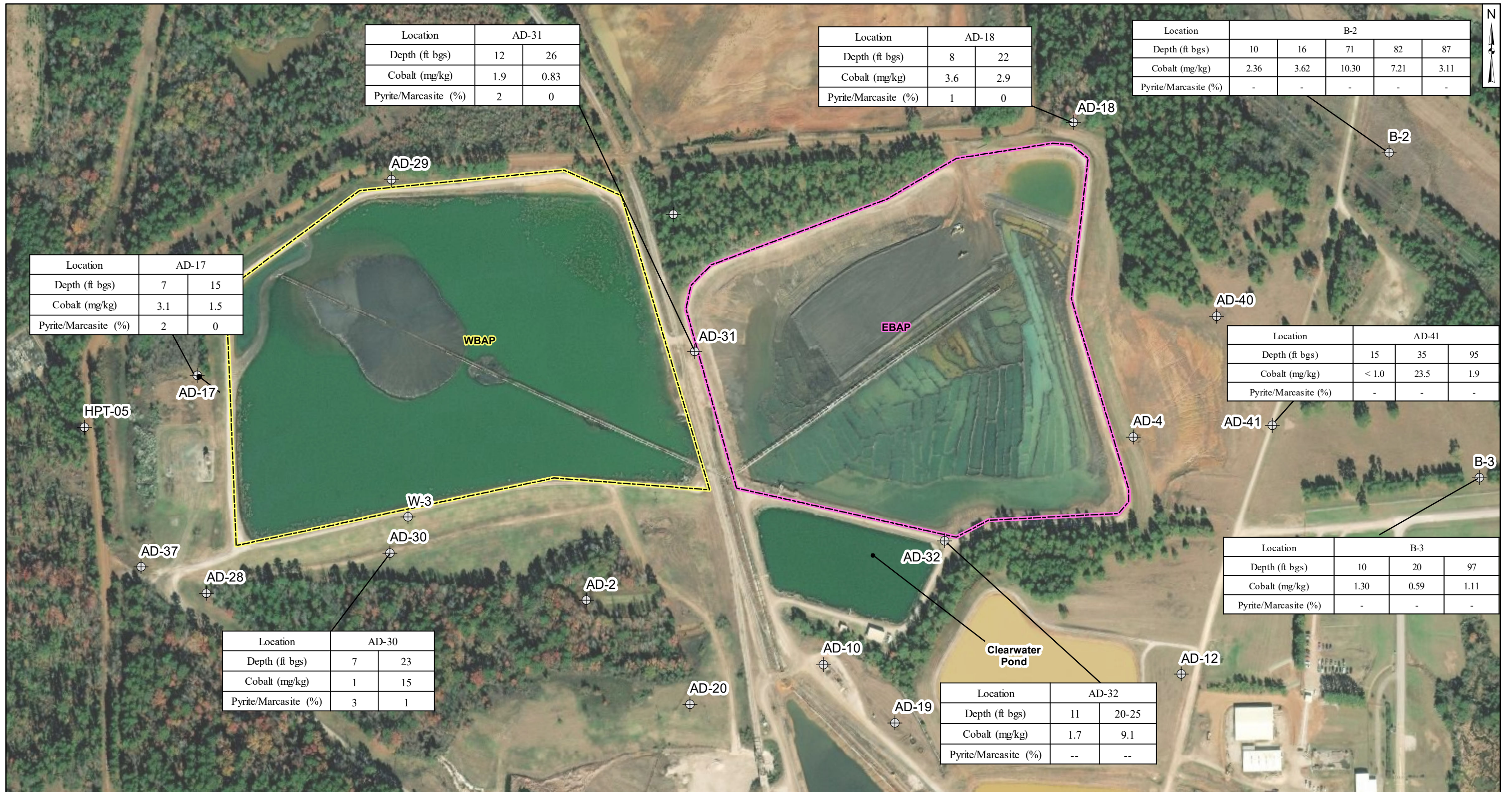
**Cobalt Distribution in Groundwater
August 2019**

AEP Pirkey Power Plant
Hallsville, Texas

Geosyntec
consultants

Figure
2

Columbus, Ohio 2020/03/30



Location	AD-31	
Depth (ft bgs)	12	26
Cobalt (mg/kg)	1.9	0.83
Pyrite/Marcasite (%)	2	0

Location	AD-18	
Depth (ft bgs)	8	22
Cobalt (mg/kg)	3.6	2.9
Pyrite/Marcasite (%)	1	0

Location	B-2				
Depth (ft bgs)	10	16	71	82	87
Cobalt (mg/kg)	2.36	3.62	10.30	7.21	3.11
Pyrite/Marcasite (%)	-	-	-	-	-

Location	AD-17	
Depth (ft bgs)	7	15
Cobalt (mg/kg)	3.1	1.5
Pyrite/Marcasite (%)	2	0

Location	AD-30	
Depth (ft bgs)	7	23
Cobalt (mg/kg)	1	15
Pyrite/Marcasite (%)	3	1

Location	AD-32	
Depth (ft bgs)	11	20-25
Cobalt (mg/kg)	1.7	9.1
Pyrite/Marcasite (%)	--	--

Location	AD-41		
Depth (ft bgs)	15	35	95
Cobalt (mg/kg)	< 1.0	23.5	1.9
Pyrite/Marcasite (%)	-	-	-

Location	B-3		
Depth (ft bgs)	10	20	97
Cobalt (mg/kg)	1.30	0.59	1.11
Pyrite/Marcasite (%)	-	-	-

Legend

- Monitoring Wells
- EBAP
- WBAP

Notes
 - Monitoring well coordinates provided by AEP.
 - Data provided by AEP, 2019.
 - ft bgs: feet below ground surface.
 - mg/kg: milligrams per kilogram.
 - -- not analyzed.



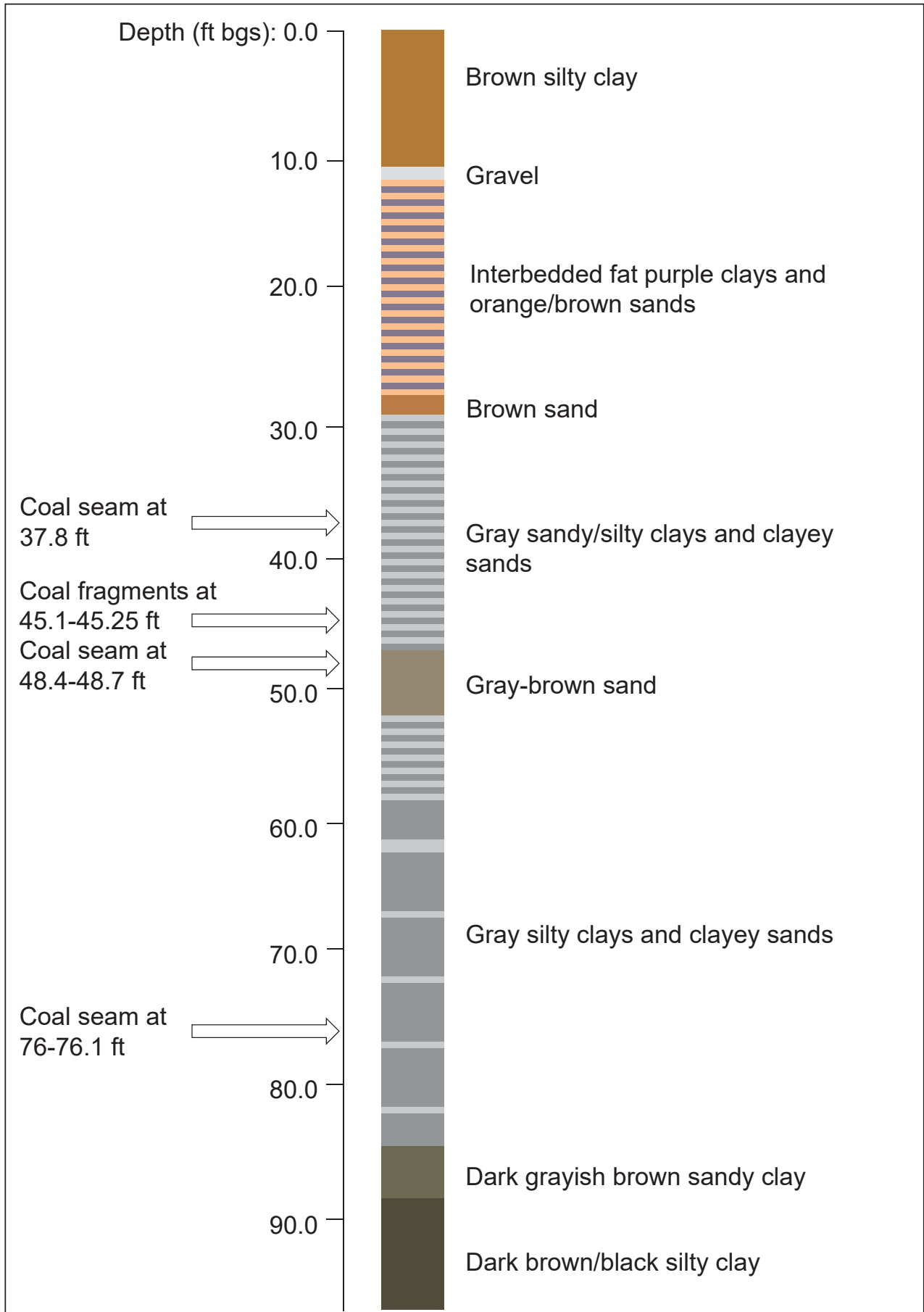
Soil Chemical and Mineralogical Analysis Results

AEP Pirkey Power Plant
Hallsville, Texas



Figure
3

Columbus, Ohio 2020/03/19



- Notes:
- Ft = feet
 - Bgs = below ground surface
 - Boring completed May 2019
 - Total depth of 97.5 ft bgs
 - Well installed in offset boring screened at 29-34 ft bgs

B-3 Visual Boring Log

AEP Pirkey Powerplant
Hallsville, TX

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Figure

4

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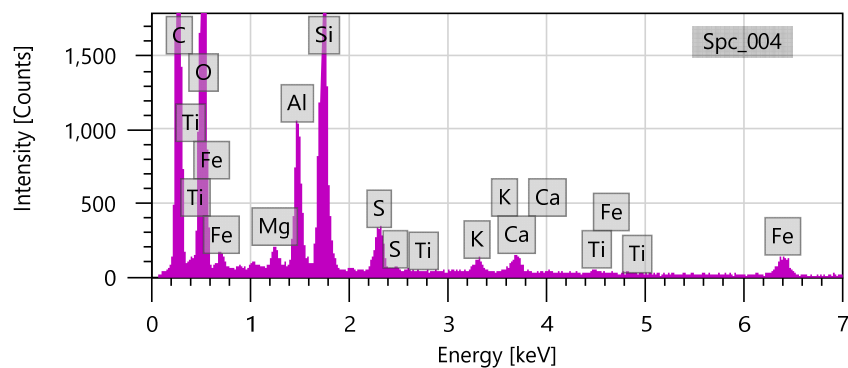
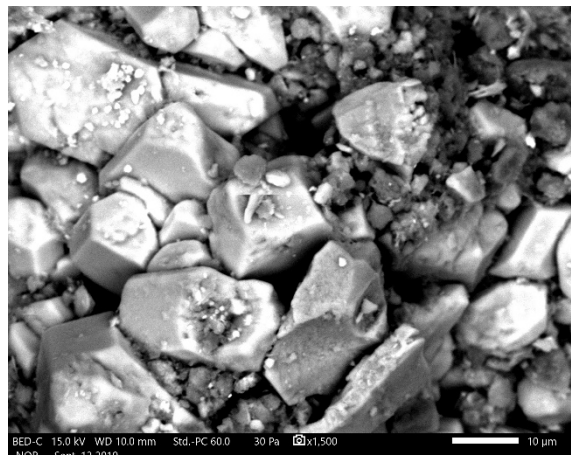
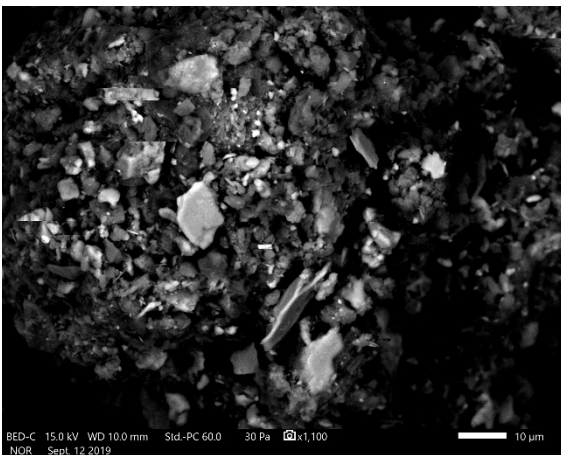
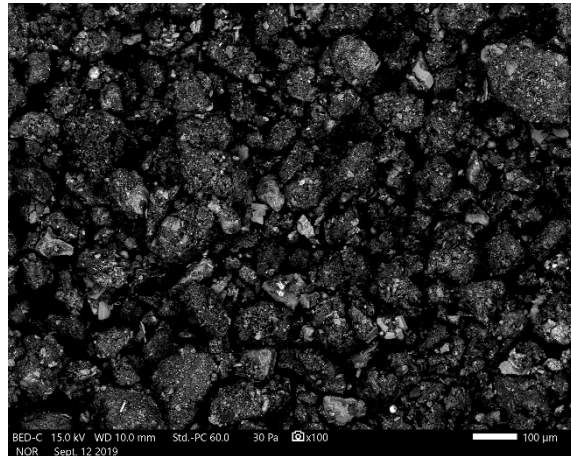
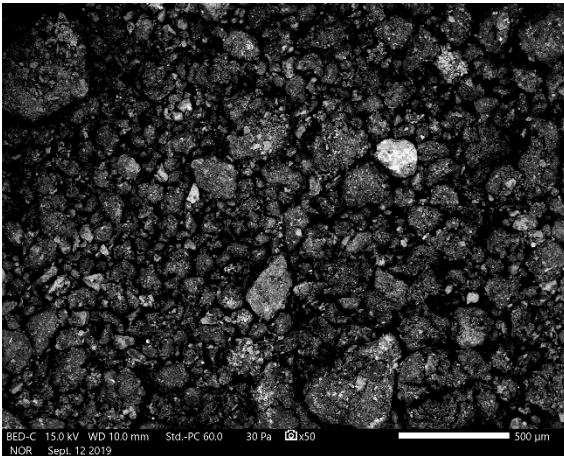
March 2020

ATTACHMENT A
SEM/EDS Analysis

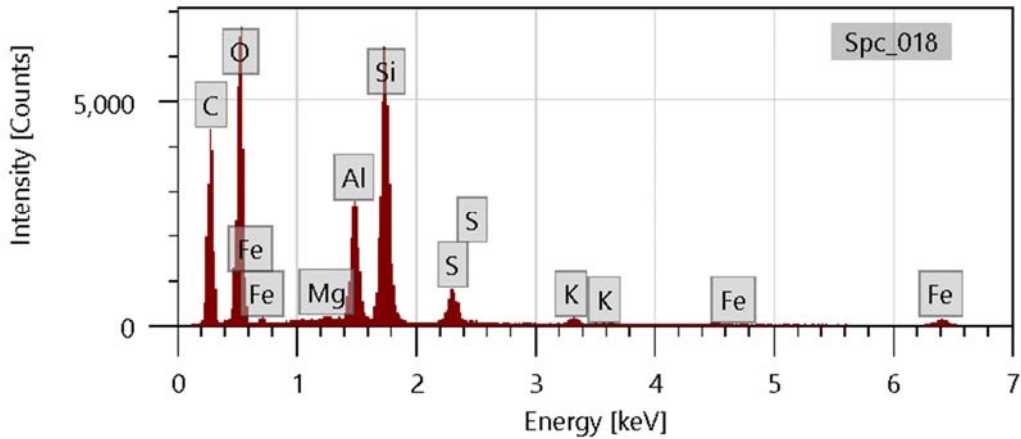
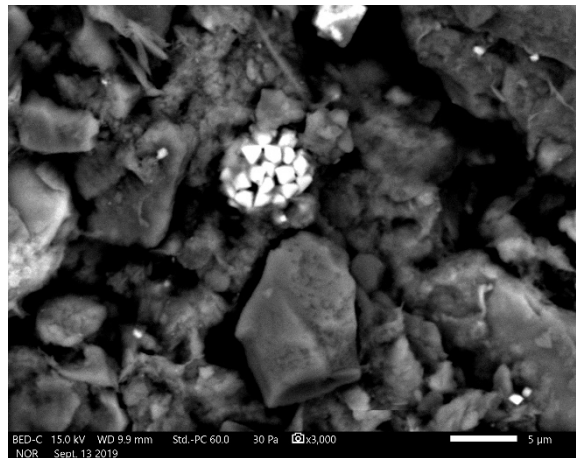
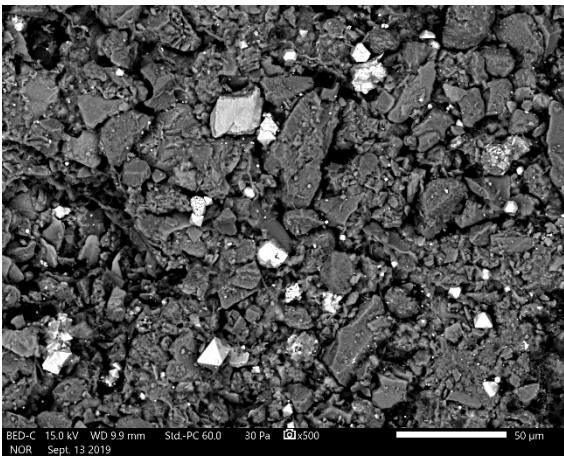
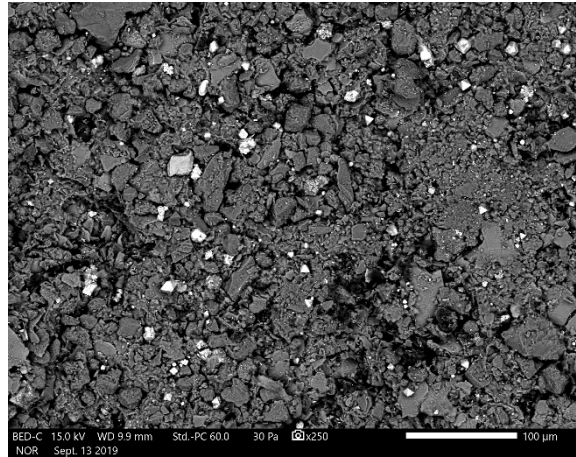
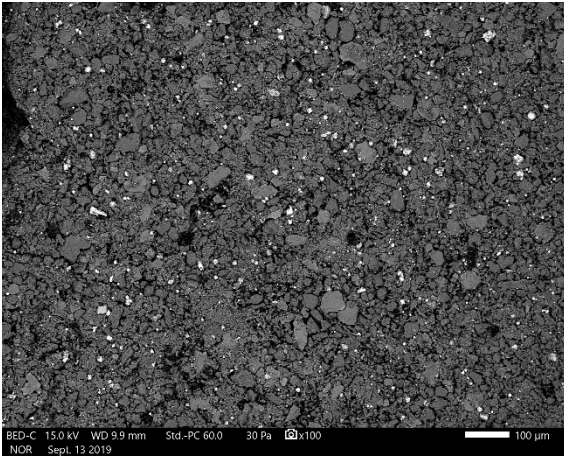
September 16, 2019

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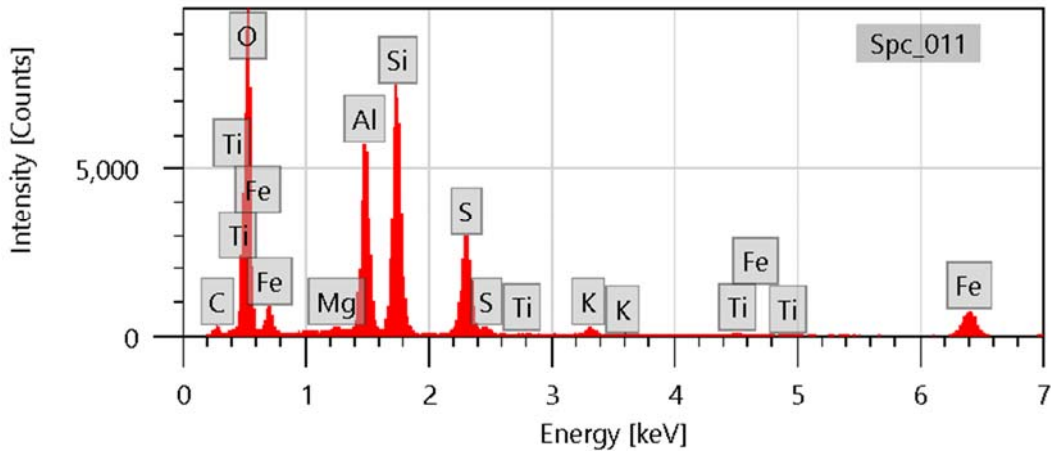
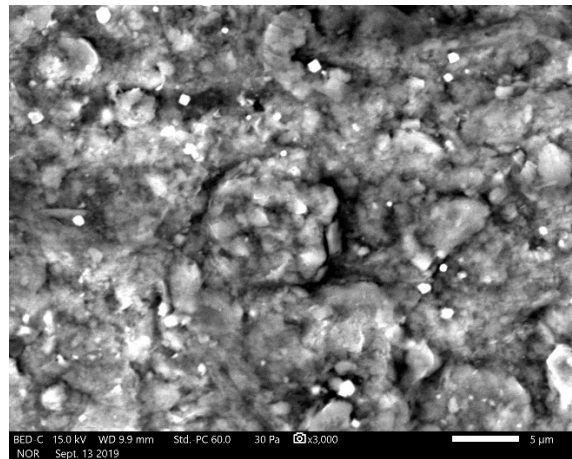
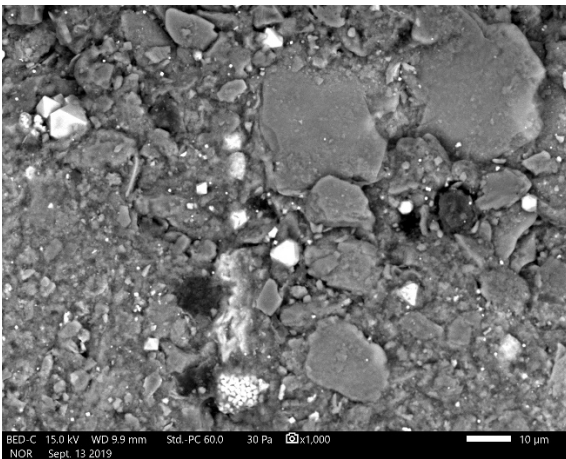
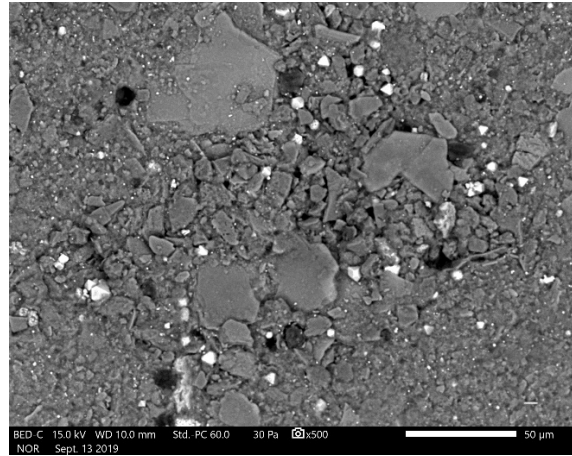
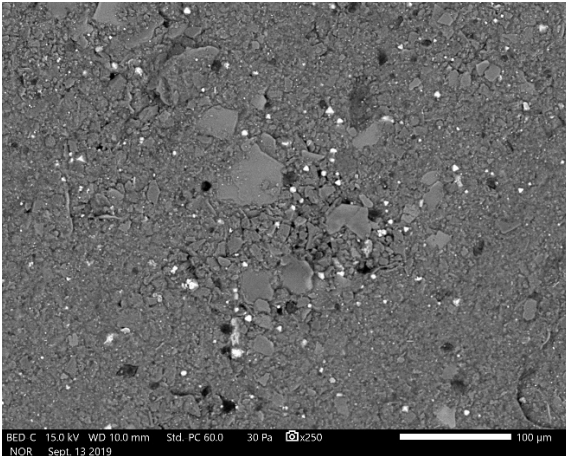
via Email: BSass@geosyntec.com



Lignite. Backscattered electron micrographs show the sample at 100X, 1,100X, and 1,500X. EDS spectrum at bottom is an area scan of the region shown in top right micrograph. Bright particles are mostly quartz and feldspar. Major peaks for carbon, oxygen, silicon, and aluminum suggest coal and clay.



Sample VAP B3 40-45. Backscattered electron micrographs show the sample at 100X, 250X, 500X, and 3000X. EDS spectrum at bottom is an area scan of the region shown at 500X. Bright particles are pyrite (framboid in bottom right micrograph). Major peaks for carbon, oxygen, silicon, and aluminum suggest coal and clay.



Sample VAP B3 50-55. Backscattered electron micrographs show the sample at 250X, 500X, 1000X, and 3000X. EDS spectrum at bottom is an area scan of the region shown at 3000X. Bright particles are mostly pyrite (framboid in bottom left micrograph); occasional particles of Fe-Ti oxide are detected. Major peaks for oxygen, silicon, and aluminum suggest clay. Large blocky particles are mostly quartz, feldspar, and clay.

ATTACHMENT B

Certification by Qualified Professional Engineer

CERTIFICATION BY A QUALIFIED PROFESSIONAL ENGINEER

I certify that the selected and above described alternative source demonstration is appropriate for evaluating the groundwater monitoring data for the Pirkey West Bottom Ash Pond CCR management area and that the requirements of 40 CFR 257.95(g)(3)(ii) have been met.

Beth Ann Gross

Printed Name of Licensed Professional Engineer

Beth Ann Gross

Signature



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4/2/2020
Date