

September 10, 2018

Sent via email to linda.r.murphy@usace.army.mil

Linda Murphy
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Louisville District
Indianapolis Regulatory Office
8902 Otis Avenue, Suite S106B
Indianapolis, IN 46216

RE: River Bank Stabilization Project along the Middle Fork Vermilion River; Vermilion Site; North Ash Pond and Old East Ash Pond

Dear Linda Murphy,

These comments are submitted on behalf of Prairie Rivers Network regarding the proposed river bank stabilization project for the Vermilion Power Station, submitted by Dynegy Midwest Generation for joint review and approval by the National Park Service (NPS), US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR), and Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA).

Prairie Rivers Network (PRN) is the state affiliate of the National Wildlife Federation, a non-profit organization that strives to protect the rivers, streams and lakes of Illinois and to promote the lasting health and beauty of watershed communities. Many of our members live and recreate in the Vermilion River watershed and continue to be at risk due to pollutants leaching from the onsite coal ash pits.

The purpose of this letter is to share our general concerns about the project. We intend to continue evaluating these concerns and reserve the right to file additional comments with each relevant agency. These comments have been sent to the US Army Corps, Illinois EPA and the National Park Service.

Overview

Dynegy owns three large coal ash impoundments on the bank of the Middle Fork of the Vermilion River (see Figure 1). The two oldest, the Old East Ash Pond and the North Ash Pond, are unlined and sit adjacent to a portion of the Middle Fork, which is actively meandering. Metals leaching from the ash ponds into groundwater are both contaminating the groundwater