



This letter is a formal conditional approval following a prior conditional approval sent via e-mail from DEQ dated 12/5/2025. S. Ward

February 17, 2026

Kordelle Stephenson
Talen Montana
PO Box 38
Colstrip, Montana
[sent electronically]

RE: DEQ Conditional Approval for the **Units 1&2 Stage One Evaporation Pond/Stage Two Evaporation Pond (SOEP/STEP) Alternative 10 (Alt10) Landfill Phase1** Ash Drying and Disposal for the Colstrip Steam Electric Station (SES) Units 1&2 SOEP/STEP Area, Colstrip, Montana

Kordelle:

The Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is conditionally approving the **Units 1&2 SOEP/STEP Alt10 Landfill Phase 1** ash drying and disposal into Phase 1 of the Alt10 Landfill and the continued operation of the interim leachate collection/recovery system. This conditional approval for Units 1&2 SOEP/STEP Alt10 Landfill Phase 1 is based on DEQ's review of the following:

- *Units 1&2 SOEP/STEP Remedial Design/Remedial Action (RD/RA) Workplan Alternative 10 Landfill Engineering Report (Geosyntec, Revised November 2024)*
- *Email correspondence from Geosyntec and Talen on December 3rd and 4th, 2025 on the completion of the protective cover and interim leachate Collection System including references to the Alt 10 [Interim] Leachate Collection System Technical Memo (Talen, October 1, 2025).*

Talen will need to continue to document the drying and disposal activities and should contact DEQ if disposal or drying methods need to be refined or modified during the process. Talen shall continue interim operation and management of leachate at the Alt10 Landfill during this ash disposal phase, and will need to continue to document the leachate monitoring and collection activities associated with Alt10 Landfill Phase 1 operations. DEQ conditionally approved the operation of the Alt10 Landfill 1 Phase 1 interim leachate system according to the October 2025 memo (Talen, October 1, 2025). DEQ has received, and is reviewing, the updated leachate design in the Remedial Design/Remedial Action (RD/RA) Workplan Amendment – Leachate Storage System, Alternative 10 Landfill Memorandum (Geosyntec, December 2, 2025).

If you have any questions or need clarifications, please feel free to contact me at 406-444-6797 or Sarah.Seitz@mt.gov.

Thanks,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'S. Seitz', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Sarah Seitz
Environmental Project Officer
Cleanup, Protection & Redevelopment Section
Waste Management & Remediation Division
Ph: 406.444-6797 | Sarah.Seitz@mt.gov

CC:

Rick Thompson – DEQ

Megan Toomey – Talen

Mike Nolden, David Richardson, Robert Glazier, Carrie Pendleton, Meena Viswanath – Geosyntec

Rich Labbe – Hydrometrics