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November 2024  
Plant Scholz



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# Legacy Surface Impoundment Applicability Report

Prepared for Florida Power & Light Company

November 2024  
Plant Scholz

# Legacy Surface Impoundment Applicability Report

**Prepared for**

Florida Power & Light Company  
700 Universe Boulevard  
Juno Beach, Florida 33408  
Mail Code: JES/JB

**Prepared by**

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## OWNER'S CERTIFICATION

I certify under penalty of law that I have personally examined and am familiar with the information submitted in this demonstration and all attached documents, and that, based on my inquiry of those immediately responsible for obtaining the information, I believe that the submitted information is true, accurate, and complete. I am aware that there are significant penalties for submitting false information, including the possibility of fine and imprisonment.

*James L Fowler*

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James L. Fowler,

FPL Power Generation Division (PGD) General Manager

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## ABBREVIATIONS

CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
cm/sec	centimeter per second
facility	Plant Scholz Generating Plant
FDEP	Florida Department of Environmental Protection
FPL	Florida Power & Light Company
Legacy Rule	<i>Hazardous and Solid Waste Management System: Disposal of Coal Combustion Residuals from Electric Utilities; Legacy CCR Surface Impoundments</i>
NGVD	National Geodetic Vertical Datum
SI	surface impoundment
USEPA	United States Environmental Protection Agency

# 1 Introduction

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) published the *Hazardous and Solid Waste Management System: Disposal of Coal Combustion Residuals from Electric Utilities; Legacy CCR Surface Impoundments* ("Legacy Rule") on May 8, 2024, which, in part, established regulatory requirements for legacy coal combustion residuals ("CCR") surface impoundments ("SI") (89 Fed. Reg. 38950 (May 8, 2024)). The Closed Ash Pond at The Plant Scholz Generating Plant ("Plant Scholz," the "plant," or the "facility"), formerly designated as upper ash pond, middle ash pond, and lower ash pond in the *Plant Scholz Ash Pond Closure Plan* (Gulf Power 2016), meets the definition of a "legacy surface impoundment": "... a CCR surface impoundment that no longer receives CCR but contained both CCR and liquids on or after October 19, 2015, and that is located at an inactive electric utility or independent power producer" (89 Fed. Reg. 39100 (May 8, 2024)).

This *Legacy Surface Impoundment Applicability Report* is intended as a mechanism to identify the presence of Plant Scholz's Closed Ash Pond as a legacy CCR SI. The document meets the requirements of 40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Section 257.100(f)(1) of the Legacy Rule, and contains the following information on the Closed Ash Pond:

## Identification Information of Legacy CCR SI:

- Name and address of the person(s) owning and operating the legacy CCR SI with their business phone number and email address and the name of the CCR SI (in accordance with 40 CFR Section 257.100(f)(1)(i)(A) and 257.100(f)(1)(i)(B)).
- Information to identify the legacy CCR SI, including a figure of the facility (Plant Scholz) and where the unit is located at the facility, facility address and the latitude and longitude of the facility (in accordance with 40 CFR Section 257.100(f)(1)(i)(C)).
- Identification number of the legacy SI, if one has been assigned by the state (in accordance with 40 CFR Section 257.100(f)(1)(i)(D)).

## Current Facility Conditions:

- Description of current site conditions (e.g., when facility operated, when it ceased generating electricity, size of facility, visual description of the legacy CCR SI, and the current use of the inactive facility (in accordance with 40 CFR Section 257.100(f)(1)(i)(E)).

The Legacy Rule establishes liquids as part of the definition of legacy CCR SIs. The presence of liquids determines whether a unit is subject to the regulations, and in performance standards that apply to legacy CCR SIs that are closing with waste in place. The term "liquids" is defined in 40 CFR Part 257.53, as "... any fluid (such as water) that has no independent shape but has a definite volume and does not expand indefinitely and that is only slightly compressible. This encompasses all of the various types of liquids that may be present in a CCR unit, including water that was sluiced into an impoundment along with CCR, precipitation, surface water, groundwater, and any other form of

water that has migrated into the impoundment, which may be found as free water or standing water ponded above CCR or porewater intermingled with CCR” (89 Fed. Reg. 39100 (May 8, 2024)).

## 2 Identification Information of Legacy CCR SI

### 2.1 Owners and Name of Legacy CCR SI

**Table 1**  
**Legacy CCR SI Ownership and Name**

Category	Information: Corporate	Information: Site
Owner/Operator	Florida Power & Light Company	
Owner/Operator Address	700 Universe Boulevard, Juno Beach, Florida 33408 Mail Code: JES/JB	
Name of CCR Legacy Surface Impoundment	Plant Scholz Closed Ash Pond	
Owner/Operator Corporate Contact	Billi Jo Huddleston 561-691-7050	James Fowler 850-505-2283
Owner/Operator Corporate Contact Email Address	Billi.Huddleston@fpl.com	James.Fowler@fpl.com

Note:

Facility operated by Florida Power & Light Company, a subsidiary of NextEra Energy Inc.

### 2.2 Information to Identify Legacy CCR SI

**Table 2**  
**Identification of Legacy CCR SI**

Category	Information
Name of CCR Legacy Surface Impoundment	Plant Scholz Closed Ash Pond <sup>1</sup>
Facility Address	1460 Gulf Power Road, Sneads, Florida
Facility Location	Section 12, Township 3 North, Range 7 West, Jackson County
Latitude, Longitude	30° 40' 09.10" N, 84° 53' 17.71" W.

The location of Plant Scholz is shown in Figure 1. The location of the Legacy CCR SI at Plant Scholz is shown in Figure 2.

<sup>1</sup> While the ash pond closure is not expected to be completed until December 2024, the name "Closed Ash Pond" will be used for the purposes of this *Legacy Surface Impoundment Applicability Report*.



## 2.3 Identification Numbers of Facility

Plant Scholz is identified within the State of Florida by various identification numbers, based on the associated Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) programs, as follows:

- Solid Waste: 100464
- Wastewater: FL0002283

### 3 Current Facility Conditions

Plant Scholz is a retired coal-fired electric generating plant, located in Sneads, Florida. The facility was constructed in 1953 and operated continuously until April 2015 when it was retired (U.S. Energy Information Administration 2024). The facility occupies approximately 300 acres, and the total area of the ash pond was approximately 47 acres. The ash pond consisted of three smaller interconnected ponds (upper, middle, and lower ash ponds used to contain CCR material; Figures 2 and 3). The main plant area consisted of two coal-fired steam electric generating units, Unit 1 and Unit 2, with a gross generation capacity of 98 megawatts. The plant was demolished in 2023. Plant decommissioning began shortly after operations ceased in 2015; and currently, ancillary equipment/infrastructure decommissioning and the final stages of ash pond closure are ongoing.

In 2016, the *Plant Scholz Ash Pond Closure Plan* (Gulf Power 2016) was submitted (after third-party input) and approved in accordance with requirements listed in Permit Number FL0002283, issued by FDEP, to comply with Florida groundwater and surface water standards, as required by Florida Statutes and implementing FDEP regulations.

#### 3.1 Visual Description and Closure Activities

As shown in Figure 1, the facility is located on the northwestern bank of the upper reaches of the Apalachicola River in Sneads, Florida. The main plant area was located on the easternmost side of the facility. The main plant area contained the major buildings and substation equipment on the property. The coal stockpile area was located directly west of the main plant area. A new lined industrial wastewater treatment pond is currently located within the footprint of the former coal pile area to accommodate industrial wastewater and stormwater from the ash pond closure operations. The treatment pond will tie into the existing discharge structure at Internal Outfall I-012.

The ash pond is located west and south of the former coal stockpile area (Figures 2 and 3). The former ash pond was closed by dewatering and consolidating the CCR into the footprint of the former upper ash pond, which is now designated as the Dry Stack Area, to an elevation of at least 83 feet NGVD (Gulf Power 2016; Figure 3). The dry stack area is not incised and meets the height and storage volume thresholds specified in 40 CFR Section 257.73(b)<sup>2</sup>. Upon consolidation and compaction, the Dry Stack Area was capped with a low permeability cover system to eliminate infiltration into the dewatered ash. After CCR removal, the former middle and lower ash ponds were graded to ensure stability of any remaining slopes. A comparison of the facility prior to closing (2014) and the current site condition (2024) is shown in Figure 3. Prior to the start of the ash pond closure, ponded water was present within the former ash pond areas. Since this area has been dewatered and excavated, free or standing water is no longer present. After CCR is removed from the

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<sup>2</sup> These thresholds are as follows: height of 5 feet or more and a storage volume of 20 acre-feet; or a height of 20 feet or more.

lower pond and placed in the Dry Stack Area, a stormwater pond will be constructed within the footprint of the former lower pond.

### 3.2 Subsurface Conditions

An overview of site geology and hydrogeology is presented in Table 3 (QRI 2016).

**Table 3  
Summary of Local Geology and Hydrogeology**

Geologic Formation	Hydrogeologic Units	Thickness (feet)	Elevation (NGVD feet)	Lithology
Recent and Fluvial Deposits	Surficial Aquifer (Unit 1)	0–25	130–60	Soft to firm very fine-grained micaceous sandy silts, silty clays, and clayey silts
Citronelle Formation				Loose, medium to fine silty sands; firm to dense, fine to coarse clayey sands and silty sands; very stiff to very hard fine-grained sandy clays and clays
Hawthorne Formation	Confining Bed (Unit 2)	5–40	105–25	Mottled soft plastic clay and sandy clay
Chattahoochee Formation				Very fine-grained, clayey, sandy, slightly dolomitic calcareous clay (marl) with well indurated lens of hard fine-grained limestone
Suwannee Limestone	Floridan Aquifer (Unit 3)	250	60–20	Well indurated dolomitic limestone containing molds of mollusks and ostracods with layers of hard dolomite

### 3.3 Current State Groundwater Monitoring Program

The Plant Scholz facility implements a groundwater monitoring program that is conducted under State of Florida Industrial Wastewater Facility Permit FL0002283 (FDEP 2022). The monitoring program includes compliance, background, and intermediate monitoring wells, as well as piezometers. All sampling and reporting are conducted as required. The groundwater monitoring program has been in place since 1984 and will continue in accordance with both the above-referenced FDEP permit and applicable federal CCR Rule requirements. A cutoff wall has been constructed upgradient (northwest and west) of the former ash ponds and extends 2 feet into the confining layer (Unit 2) to minimize the Surficial Aquifer groundwater from interacting with the Dry

Stack Area (Figure 3). The cutoff wall has a permeability of no greater than  $1 \times 10^{-7}$  centimeters per second (cm/sec; Gulf Power 2016). Since the closure of the Closed Ash Pond includes a cutoff wall that extends 2 feet into the confining layer to minimize Surficial Aquifer groundwater from interacting with the Dry Stack area, the groundwater monitoring network will be re-evaluated post-closure to determine if any modifications are needed to ensure appropriate locations of wells.

### **3.4 Closure Status**

As of November 2024, closure activities at the Closed Ash Pond are approximately greater than 95% complete and are expected to be completed by the end of December 2024.

Based on an email notification from FPL to FDEP regarding the status of the decommissioning activities for the facility, as of January 2023, all asbestos, diesel tanks, and associated concrete containment walls had been removed from the facility, as well as the coal conveyor and supporting structures. The demolition of main facility structures, and the plant buildings were completed in 2023. Following demolition, the main facility structure area was regraded and grassed. The parking lots and access roads remain (Jansen 2023).

#### **3.4.1 Wastewater**

The wastewater from the dewatering process of ash pond closure was treated as needed to meet the 40 CFR Part 423 Effluent Limitation Guidelines prior to discharge to the new lined industrial wastewater treatment pond. The industrial wastewater pond will remain in service to address future water treatment needs at the site.

#### **3.4.2 Stormwater**

Stormwater from the Dry Stack Area is collected through a perimeter ditch, installed surrounding the Dry Stack Area, which diverts the flow to the stormwater pond constructed within the footprint of the former lower ash pond.

## 4 Conclusion

This *Legacy Surface Impoundment Applicability Report* is intended as a mechanism to identify the presence of Plant Scholz's Closed Ash Pond as a legacy CCR SI. The Closed Ash Pond is subject to the Legacy Rule. This document discusses site conditions and activities that have taken place at the site. This report meets the requirements of 40 CFR Section 257.100(f)(1) of the Legacy Rule.

The closure of the legacy CCR SI at Plant Scholz is greater than 95% completed and scheduled to be completed by the end of December 2024. The legacy CCR SI is being closed by consolidating CCR from the former upper, middle, and lower ponds to the Dry Stack Area. The upper and middle ponds no longer contain free or standing water. After CCR is removed from the lower pond, a stormwater pond will be constructed within the footprint of the former lower pond.

FPL received concurrence from FDEP and received third-party input on the closure plan for the legacy CCR SI at Plant Scholz. The Dry Stack Area is the location of consolidated ash that has a low permeability cover system to eliminate infiltration into the dewatered ash. Also, there is a cutoff wall installed upgradient of the Dry Stack Area, to minimize groundwater from coming in contact with the dewatered ash.

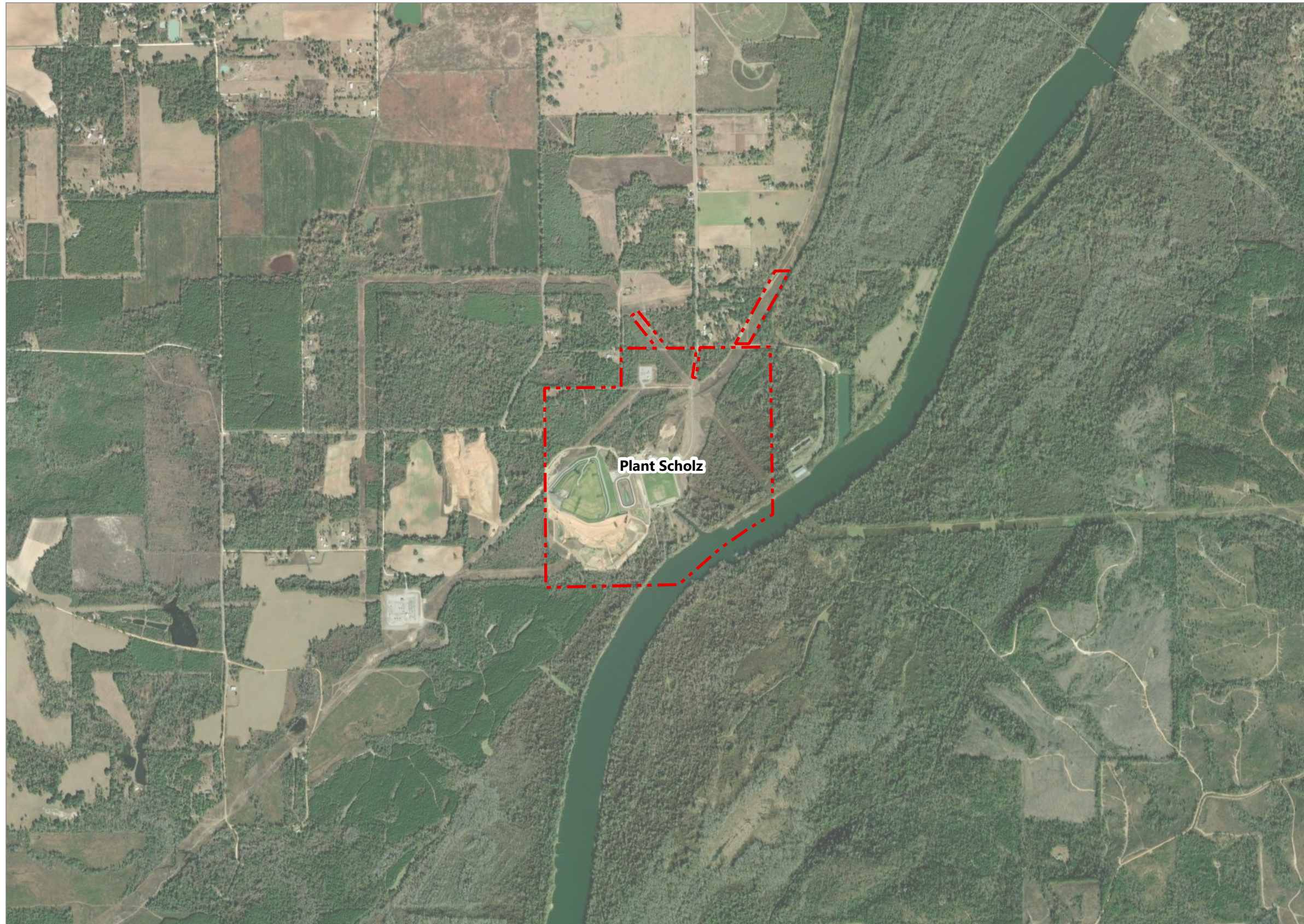
This site has a groundwater monitoring program that has been in place since 1984 for the collection of groundwater quality data from the former lower, upper, and middle ponds that comprise the Closed Ash Pond, as well as the Dry Stack Area that is almost at completion.

## 5 References

- Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP), 2016. Letter of Approval for New Hazardous Waste Status. March 4, 2016.
- FDEP, 2019. Letter to Richard "Mike" Markey. March 15, 2019.
- FDEP, 2022. *State of Florida Industrial Wastewater Facility Permit, Scholz Electric Generating Plant, Permit Number FL0002283-010*, December 9, 2022.
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- Jansen, 2023. Email to: Catherine Hajcak, FDEP. January 9, 2023.
- QRI, 2016. *Hydrogeology/Stratigraphy Project for the Gulf Power Plant Scholz, Sneads, Florida*. Prepared for Gulf Power Company. April 22, 2016.
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- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), 2024. *Hazardous and Solid Waste Management System: Disposal of Coal Combustion Residuals from Electric Utilities; Legacy CCR Surface Impoundments*, Federal Register, Volume 89, Number 90, May 8, 2024.

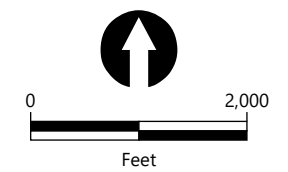
## Figures

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**LEGEND:**  
Property Boundary

**NOTE:**  
Base map data: ESRI 2024

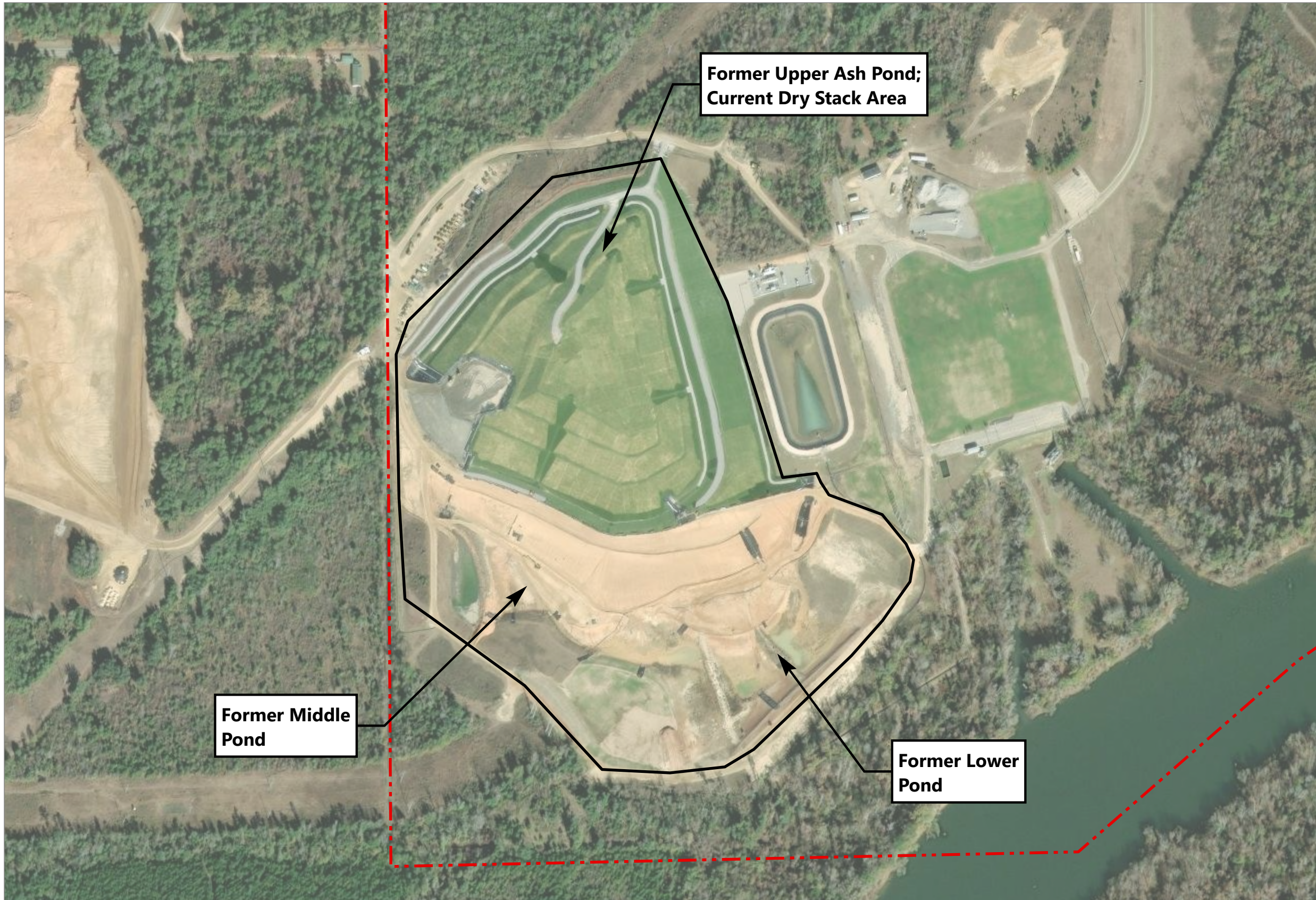


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**Figure 1**  
**Site Location**  
Legacy Surface Impoundment Applicability Report  
Plant Scholz

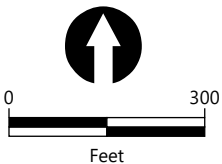




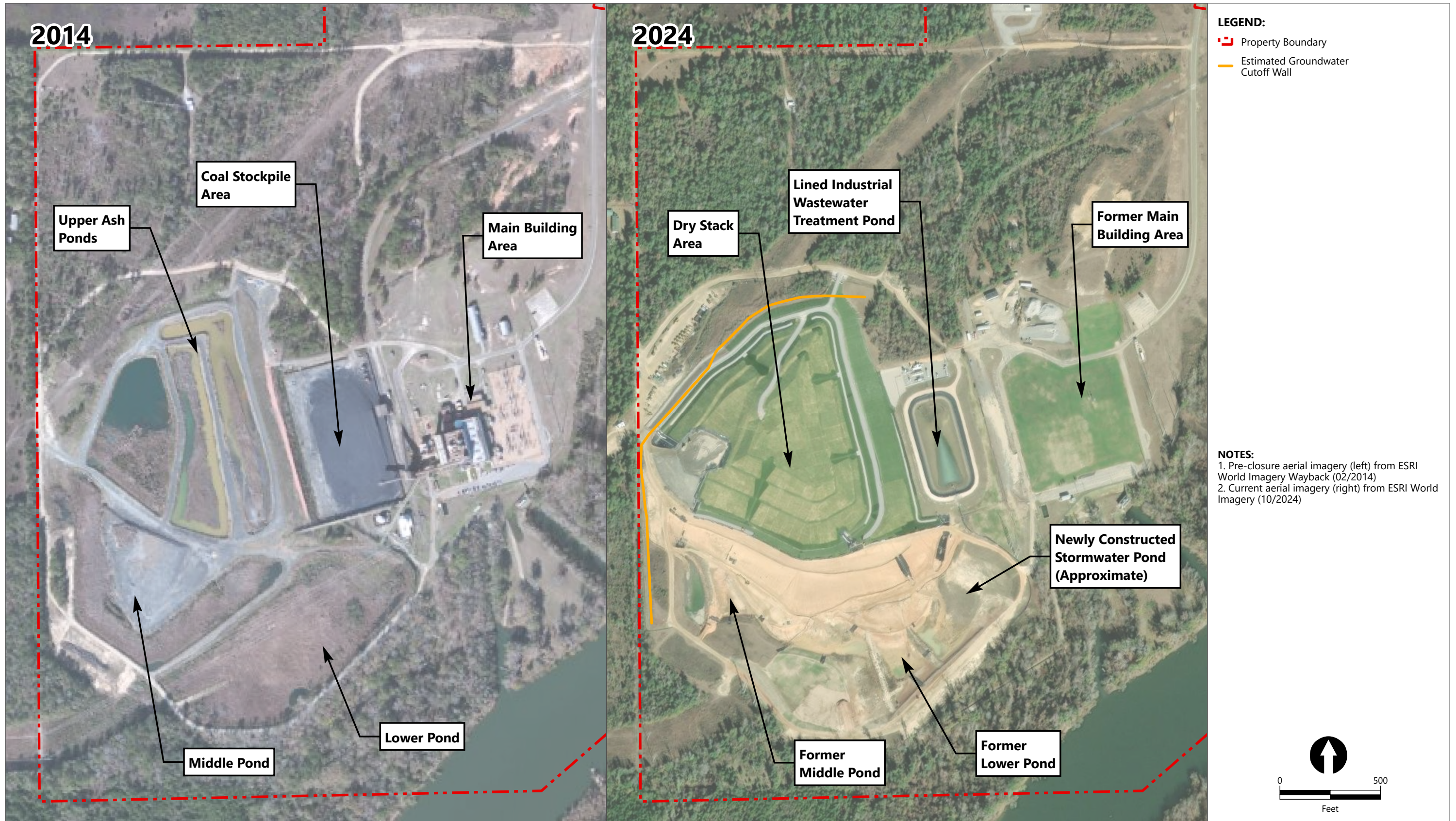
**LEGEND:**

-  Property Boundary
-  Approximate Lateral Extent of Closed Ash Pond

**NOTE:**  
Current aerial imagery from ESRI World Imagery (10/2024)



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