

SAFETY ALERT

E&CS Lessons Learned - Best Practices

On the morning of June 17th, 2017, a contractor's Volvo EC300 Long Reach Excavator became stuck in wet fly ash while removing organics from the ash. The operator stopped and the crew implemented their equipment extraction procedure by calling for assistance and not trying to self rescue. In the process of trying to assist in the safe extraction of the long reach excavator, a CAT 320 Excavator became stuck in the wet ash as well. With two pieces of equipment stuck in wet ash, the situation was reassessed and it was agreed upon by site management that floating roads would have to be constructed to extract both pieces of equipment safely from the wet ash. The contractor's Ash Pond Entry Checklist was then reviewed before personnel and other equipment entered the ash basin to assist in the safe retrieval of the equipment. The Ash Pond Entry Checklist serves as a guideline for employees entering wet basins which have the potential of engulfing equipment and employees. The checklist contains items such as special PPE, mechanical aid devices and materials used to increase soil stability. By Following the SSSP and using the checklist, both the Volvo EC300 Long Reach Excavator and the CAT 320 Excavator were extracted safely from the wet ash with only minor equipment damage.

Contributing Factors:

- _ Ash Basin was not adequately dewatered before accessing with equipment.
- _ Equipment vibration brought water to the surface, causing the ground to become unstable.

Areas of Success:

- Contractor Operators applied site specific training by stopping work when stuck and not attempting self rescue.
- Contractor followed their approved plan for extracting stuck equipment.
- Contractor had appropriate supplies on hand for the safe extraction of stuck equipment.

Areas for Improvement:

- Ensure that adequate dewatering has occurred before accessing the ash basin.
- Stage materials and supplies needed for the extraction of stuck equipment in a convenient, readily available location.
- Keep a portable light plant or other means of providing light nearby in case the extraction process runs past daylight hours.



Jun 28, 2017

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EXAMPLE OF A FLOATING ROAD



EXCAVATOR WORKING SAFELY FROM SWAMP MATS