

Ash Dust Control with Seeding

January 5, 2009

As part of immediate actions to minimize dust and erosion, TVA is spreading grass seed and fertilizer, as well as a liquid dust suppression agent.

The seeding is an immediate, short-term solution. It will not be left in place long term. TVA plans to recover all material possible.

The undisturbed portion of the ash cell will be covered with a liquid dust suppression agent via truck and sprayer.

TVA will access the internal portion of the spilled material via helicopter to spray seed and fertilizer, followed later by straw. This is a temporary measure for controlling dust and erosion. This process is similar to the one used by highway departments to provide ground cover.

The perimeter will also be sprayed with a combination of seed, fertilizer and straw or with a liquid dust suppression agent. But this will be applied manually from an amphibious vehicle in order to protect property and possessions (vehicles, mail boxes, etc.).

For the area around Swan Pond Road where work is continuing, the ash will be sprayed with water, but will not be seeded at this time.

The ash is mostly inert and breathing fly ash for a short period of time is unlikely to be a health concern. But, breathing particulates (fly ash or other airborne particulates) over long periods of time can irritate the respiratory system. So, TVA is taking measures to reduce the amount of airborne dust that may arise in the future.

TVA began begin stabilization of 400 acres of ash on Saturday, January 3. Work will continue over the next few days, weather permitting. Due to safety concerns and in order to ensure accurate and effective efforts, operations will not continue if heavy rain, strong winds or fog is in the area.

1/5/08 - Placed an additional 26 tons of seed for at total of 47 tons. Completed application of the liquid suppression agent on 26-27 acres.

1/4/08 - Placed an additional 9.8 tons of seed for a total of 21 tons. Placed dust suppression agent on 14.5 acres for a total of 21.5 acres covered.

1/3/08 – Placed 11.2 tons of seed and fertilizer on former dredge cell. Placed dust suppression agent on 7 acres of remaining dredge cell.

Germination rate of annual rye: 7 – 10 days depending on weather and temperature conditions (50 degrees Fahrenheit is desirable). Seed companies report that pre-germinated seed is not readily available.