

Ash Release at TVA's Kingston December 30, 2008; 4:00 p.m. EST

TVA, local, state and federal agencies continue to work on recovery and clean up of a release of ash caused by a failure of a coal ash containment retention wall at TVA's Kingston Fossil Plant in East Tennessee.

Community Assistance

TVA continues to assist residents affected by the incident. A team of TVA employees and retirees, who will provide one point of contact for each family, has been established.

A team of two liaisons will work with one or two families to ensure their needs are met and concerns addressed. TVA Police continue to assist local law enforcement with maintaining security for the homes in the affected area.

Roadway and Railway Cleanup

Public access on Swan Pond Road past the Kingston plant remains closed except for residents and persons with official business. Though there is no estimate for when the road will reopen, as of this morning about 2635 feet of Swan Pond Road have been cleared of debris. About 1270 feet of the railroad tracks have also been cleared of debris.

An aerial survey completed last week shows that about 5.4 million cubic yards of ash has been displaced and covers slightly less than 300 acres outside of the ash storage areas.

Air Monitoring

On December 29, mobile air quality testing conducted in the community around the Kingston plant found particulate levels far below applicable standards. Air monitoring is continuing and is expanding in scope.

At the request of residents, air monitors are being installed on several properties today. Also beginning today, many of the recovery workers are wearing portable monitors to verify air quality.

Water Quality

TVA continues to manage river flows on the Clinch and Tennessee Rivers to minimize impact on recovery and monitoring activities associated with the ash release. The Kingston water supply intake is located on the Tennessee River about one half mile upstream from its confluence with the Clinch River coming from the Kingston Fossil Plant. By managing river flows through the Kingston area, TVA expects to keep ash that might be flowing down the Clinch River from moving upstream toward the water intake.

Samples closest to the Kingston water treatment plant continue to meet requirements for primary drinking water standards. TVA and other agencies will continue to monitor for contaminants in the river.

The most recent results of water sampling near the ash release area indicate that the concentrations of sampled contaminants either met or were below detection levels

established by the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation to protect fish and aquatic life.

Several water utilities in the area, including those in Kingston, Rockwood, Cumberland and Harriman, are sampling and testing water at their intakes to verify it meets water quality standards.

TDEC is sampling some private wells at the owners' request. In addition, a third party is collecting and analyzing samples without TVA involvement.

Emory and Clinch Rivers

The Emory River remains closed from mile marker zero through mile marker 4. The Kingston Fossil Plant Boat Ramp and fishing area has also been closed due to large equipment being moved into the area for clean-up. Coast Guard and TVA Police marine units are assisting with security in the area.

Work continues on a rock weir that is being built on the Emory River, just north of the existing intake skimmer weir. The weir will be about 615 feet long. As of this morning, approximately one-third (250 feet) had been completed. The weir will allow water to continue flowing, but will contain the ash. Planning with the Corps of Engineers is continuing for dredging the Emory River in the vicinity of the spill.

A second weir is being designed to confine the ash and keep it from entering the river. This 2000-foot rock weir will extend from Swan Pond Circle south to the plant river bank.

Cenospheres

The residue floating on top of the water is called cenospheres. Cenospheres are inert, hollow balls of sand-like material. Like dust, they can cause common irritations such as watering of the eyes. Similarly, they may cause sneezing or coughing if inhaled.

The cenospheres are being removed from the water. About 6000 feet of skimmer booms are in place to contain the cenospheres on the water surface. Additional booms are being placed in the water. Two vacuum trucks, located on a flat barge, are operating 12 hours per day to remove the cenospheres, along with three skimmer systems.

Removal of cenospheres from the water surface is continuing.

Joint Information Center

The Joint Information Center continues to operate at the Roane County Rescue Squad Building, located at 2735 Roane State Highway, Harriman, Tennessee.

Representatives of the news media can come to the JIC for information on the recovery and clean up efforts or they can call representatives at the center at (865) 590-7001. The public may call (865) 717-4006 for information.

General Information

Seven of the nine units at Kingston are shutdown; along with several other TVA fossil units, due to reduced demand for electricity as the mild weather remains in the Tennessee Valley.