



## Fact Sheet Kingston Ash Recovery Project December 7, 2011

TVA is committed to cleaning up the area affected by the Kingston Fossil Plant coal ash spill, protecting public health and safety, and making the area as good as or better than it was before.

### ***Background***

A dike failure at Kingston Fossil Plant in Harriman, Tenn., on Dec. 22, 2008, released an estimated 5.4 million cubic yards of coal ash from a dredge cell to the adjacent area, ruptured a natural gas line, disrupted power and transportation, rendered three homes uninhabitable, and resulted in the evacuation of a nearby residential area.

### ***Key points***

- TVA is making significant progress in cleaning up the land and water in the area affected by the spill, and is working closely with leaders and residents of Roane County to strengthen public trust, promote economic development, and make the area better than it was before the spill.
- The recovery is proceeding in phases under the oversight of TVA, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation.
- The first, or time-critical, phase has been completed. The Emory River was reopened May 29, 2010, after TVA removed more than 3.5 million cubic yards of ash and sediment from the river and adjoining areas.
- On Dec. 1, 2010, the last of 414 train shipments of recovered coal ash - some 40,000 rail cars in all - was transported to the EPA-approved Arrowhead Landfill in Perry County, Ala.
- Dike C reinforcement was completed in October 2011 by adding layers of sand and rock to improve the berm's structural integrity.
- In June 2011, TVA began consolidating spilled ash that did not enter the river. The ash is being stored on-site in the dredge cell that is being rebuilt and reinforced to resist earthquakes.
- Work began in summer 2011 on the perimeter wall stabilization project to reinforce the dredge cell. The work will be completed in eight phases.
- TVA completed ash excavation from the north embayment in October 2011, removing more than 1.2 million cubic yards of material.

### ***Additional information***

- Health assessments by the Tennessee Department of Health (in conjunction with the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry) and by Oak Ridge Associated Universities have found no evidence of adverse health effects resulting from the spill.
- TVA, EPA and TDEC still monitor air and water in the area. Thousands of samples taken since the recovery began confirm that air and water in the community meet public health standards.

- TVA is supporting independent scientific research related to the spill and setting TVA on a course to be an industry leader in ash management.
- TVA has strengthened internal accountabilities and organizational effectiveness to reduce the likelihood of events like the Kingston ash spill in the future.

***Other information related to the Ash Recovery Project***

- Work is progressing to rebuild, reinforce and close the failed dredge cell and to restore the Swan Pond embayment. This phase is expected to be completed in 2013-2014. The cleanup project cost is estimated at \$1.1 billion to \$1.2 billion. This does not include long term environmental monitoring and remediation of any remaining issues.
- TVA has restored and enhanced utility infrastructure that was damaged or destroyed by the ash spill, providing some area residents with better utilities than they had before.
- TVA regularly communicates with nearby residents, community leaders and elected officials through a variety of communication vehicles.
- TVA purchased some 900 acres of residential properties in the immediate vicinity of the spill. TVA developed a long-term land use plan for some of the purchased property and on Aug. 2, 2011, conducted a public meeting in Kingston to share its conceptual plan with the community. TVA will retain ownership of this property, designating some as recreational and green space areas for community benefit, while retaining some as permanent plant buffer.
- In October 2011, as part of TVA's long-term land use plan, TVA began asbestos abatement from some structures, following the removal of other hazardous materials from various properties. In November 2011, TVA began removing structures from designated properties.
- TVA pledged \$43 million to support economic development initiatives approved by the Roane County Economic Development Foundation. Of this amount, \$32 million is designated for projects at nine schools.
- As a result of improvements since the Kingston event, TVA has made sure that all 24 coal ash ponds at TVA's 11 fossil plants meet industry stability standards. TVA intends to invest up to \$2 billion to convert all of its ash and gypsum ponds from wet storage to dry storage in eight to 10 years. The goal is to have the safest and most thoroughly inspected impoundments in the industry. Kingston will be the first TVA facility converted.