

## **TVA Guideline for Health Issues**

June 2009

TVA is committed to recovering the ash that was released from Kingston and restoring the area in a manner that will protect public health and the environment. Available information indicates the risk of physical health impacts from exposure to Kingston ash is very low. However, individuals have expressed concerns about impacts to their health as a result of the ash release. This guideline explains how TVA plans to respond to these concerns. TVA intends to monitor implementation of this guideline closely and in its discretion will make adjustments to it as necessary. This guideline is intended for TVA's internal use only in addressing health issues potentially related to the Kingston ash spill. Nothing in the guideline creates any legally enforceable right or benefit for any party against TVA.

### **I. Overview**

TVA's approach to addressing health issues is to rely on independent assessments of qualified medical personnel to determine if an individual has been injured because of exposure to the ash released during the Kingston spill. If an individual is determined to have been injured, TVA would assume responsibility for medical expenses the individual incurs from undergoing recognized and accepted medical treatment for the adverse health effects determined to result from exposure to Kingston ash.

### **II. Oak Ridge Associated Universities**

TVA has contracted with Oak Ridge Associated Universities (ORAU) to provide its services to the Kingston community and individuals with health concerns relating to the Kingston ash spill. ORAU is a consortium of 100 doctoral-granting academic universities that collaborate to advance scientific research and education in areas, including health issues. One of the services that ORAU provides is communicating with individuals about health concerns and independent verification of health claims. To supplement its resources, ORAU will contract with Vanderbilt University Medical Center (Vanderbilt) to provide Vanderbilt's expertise in clinical toxicology to the medical community and individuals in the Kingston area.

ORAU will establish a program where concerned individuals who meet certain qualifying criteria will have access to trained clinical toxicologists from Vanderbilt who will review health concerns with each individual. ORAU will establish the criteria for qualifying for this program. Initially, this program is expected to include appropriate individual examinations in a clinic setting to determine if an individual has suffered adverse health effects from the ash spill. ORAU will establish a process for notifying individuals within the Kingston area about the availability of this program and who will qualify for it. ORAU will schedule individuals to meet with Vanderbilt medical toxicologists in the Kingston area at one or more special clinics. Depending on the results of initial examinations, qualifying criteria may be changed by ORAU. As part of a subsequent phase of this program, ORAU will work with community doctors to

ensure that individuals who show symptoms of adverse health effects possibly associated with the ash spill have an opportunity to have their records reviewed by clinical toxicologists, including, if appropriate, individual examinations. Based on information collected during the initial phase of the program, ORAU will determine whether additional special clinics should be offered in the Kingston area.

Unless authorized by an individual, ORAU will not provide TVA medical information about individual assessments, but will provide TVA and the Tennessee Department of Health information about any trends it discerns from individual assessments. These trends may suggest the need for improvements in the measures TVA is taking to protect public health.

### **III. Tennessee Department of Health**

The Tennessee Department of Health (TDH) has partnered with federal, state, and local government agencies to ensure that the health of residents of Roane County remain a priority as TVA cleans up the Kingston site. TVA and ORAU in conjunction with TDH, as appropriate, periodically will provide the general community information about health issues. ORAU will also provide TDH information about health trends.

### **IV. Environmental Sampling**

To support ORAU's and Vanderbilt's efforts, TVA may arrange to have samples of air, soil, and water conditions taken at an individual's location after being given any necessary permission to do this. If this is done, sample analysis results, from a third party certified lab, would be provided to the individual and to ORAU. Such results may be used by ORAU in its determinations and by TVA when it considers what actions should be taken to address individual concerns.

### **V. Response Measures**

If ORAU determines that an individual's adverse health effects likely have resulted from the Kingston ash spill, TVA will assume responsibility for medical expenses the individual incurs from undergoing recognized and accepted medical treatment for the adverse health effects unless other information indicates ORAU's determination is questionable. In the latter event, TVA would provide such information to ORAU and ask it to review its determination in light of the information. To request reimbursement of medical costs, an individual would have to authorize the release to TVA of its ORAU (Vanderbilt) diagnosis.

Individuals from whom TVA has obtained liability releases when their property was purchased by TVA could receive medical examinations if they otherwise qualify to do so.

If it is determined that an individual's exposure to Kingston ash is sufficiently elevated based on environmental sampling to warrant addressing it, TVA will take action to reduce the exposure, possibly including removing ash that may be at the exposure location, cleaning the location, or relocating the individual temporarily or permanently.