

**Fact Sheet – Ash Release at TVA’s Kingston Fossil Plant
December 27, 2008 – 4:30 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 fly 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. Each TVA liaison 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.

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 as well as minimize the possibility of water from the plant flowing past the Kingston water supply intake.

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. TVA has maintained flow at 24,000 cubic feet per second or greater between Fort Loudon and Watts Bar throughout the week (since 7 a.m. on December 21). This flow down the Tennessee River through the Kingston area is expected 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 meet requirements for primary drinking water standards. TVA and other agencies will continue to monitor for contaminants in the river.

Results of water sampling indicate that the concentrations of sampled contaminants were below levels established by the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation to protect fish and aquatic life.

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.

These lightweight, rigid, waterproof materials are useful in a variety of products, primarily as fillers. Manufacturing uses include bowling balls, paint, concrete, and epoxy foam.

The cenospheres are being removed from the water. About 3000 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.

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, about 1500 feet of Swan Pond Road and Swan Pond Circle have been cleared of debris. Almost 900 feet of the railroad tracks have also been cleared of debris.

An aerial survey completed on December 24 shows that about 5.4 million cubic yards of ash has been displaced. Along with a more accurate determination of the volume of ash released, the aerial survey verified that ash covers less area than originally estimated. The displaced ash covers slightly less than 300 acres.

Some of the remaining dry ash about 370 feet from Swan Pond Road in the storage area is expected to fall away from the edge of the remaining ash pile. This will help to level off the remaining ash. Due to the distance from the roadway and the relative dryness of the ash, no effects outside the area of the ash retention area are expected.

General Information

The Coast Guard has closed the waterway from mile marker zero through mile marker 4. TVA Police marine units are assisting in the vicinity of the plant.

As of 7 a.m. Saturday, there were no reports of injuries in the previous 48 hours.

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.

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