

**Ash Release at TVA's Kingston  
December 31, 2008 7 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. TVA met with a group of 14 homeowners on Tuesday evening to answer questions and listen to their concerns. Today TVA has activated a 1-800 number that property owners should call if they need an assessment of property damages. An Outreach Center will be opened early next week and staffed by TVA and insurance company representatives.

All other members of the public should continue to use 865-717-4006 with their questions or concerns.

**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 workers had reached road level on Swan Pond Road in their cleanup activities.

All but 250 feet of rail have now been uncovered, and that remaining portion is about a foot under water. TVA is now beginning to remove rail and ties, and will begin to reconstruct the railroad base this week in preparation to lay rails beginning Monday and Tuesday next week.

**Air Monitoring**

The results of December 29 mobile air quality testing conducted in the community around the Kingston plant found particulate levels far below any level of concern. 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 is taking daily samples before and after treatment at this facility. 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.

To ensure independence, TVA is contracting with several water utilities in the area, including those in Kingston, Rockwood, Harriman and the Cumberland Utility District to sample and test 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.

### **Soil Sampling**

TVA has taken offsite soil samples to test for toxic metals in areas where there were ash deposits. The results will be compared to the data for the ash that was known to be in the ash pond prior to the spill and to regulatory standards for hazardous materials. The results will be released to the public

### **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. It is approximately 65 percent complete. 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 release.

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

### **General Information**

Two of the nine units at Kingston are operating today. The other seven units are shutdown due to reduced demand for electricity as the relatively mild weather remains in the Tennessee Valley.

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