



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 4  
SAM NUNN ATLANTA FEDERAL CENTER  
61 FORSYTH STREET, S.W.  
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303

Memorandum

January 10, 2009

To: Tim Hope, TVA Incident Commander  
Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) Kingston Ash Release  
Harriman, Roane County, Tennessee

From: Steve Spurlin, Federal On-Scene Coordinator  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 4

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Steve Spurlin", is written over the typed name of the sender.

Re: Transfer of Federal Lead Agency Authority

On December 22, 2008, at approximately 0100 hours, the northeastern dike at the TVA Kingston Power Plant, located in Harriman, Roane County, Tennessee, failed. The dike retained one of three cells at the facility used for dewatering fly ash. Subsequently, approximately 5.4 million cubic yards of fly ash were released into two sloughs which flow into the Emory River. The release extended approximately 300 acres outside of the ash storage areas. Local emergency officials first responded to the scene, and then shortly thereafter, began to assist residents affected by the fly ash flow.

On December 22, 2008, the National Response Center (NRC), and subsequently the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 4, was notified of the incident. A Federal On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) responded to the TVA Kingston Power Plant Facility the same day.

TVA and EPA, as well as State and local agencies, have operated in a unified command during the emergency phase of the incident with EPA acting as the lead federal agency for environmental response. A decision was made by the Unified Command that the incident would transition from the emergency phase to long-term recovery effective January 11, 2009 at 1800 hrs.

Effective January 11, 2009, 1800 hrs, EPA transfers the lead federal agency role to TVA. If you have any technical questions or concerns, you may reach me at 731-394-8996. If you have to contact USEPA R4 pertaining to interagency issues, please contact Franklin E. Hill, Superfund Director, at 404-562-8599.