



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

INFORMATION UPDATE – LONG TERM MONITORING

Eden North Carolina Ash Spill

No. 6

January 27, 2015

This site information update summarizes the response, ongoing activities, and next steps.

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For additional information regarding this Site please visit:

<http://epa.gov/region4/duke-energy/index.html>

www.vdh.state.va.us

www.deq.virginia.gov

<http://portal.ncdenr.org/web/guest/dan-river-spill>

www.epi.publichealth.nc.gov

www.fws.gov/contaminants

Response History

On February 2, 2014, officials estimate up to 39,000 tons of coal ash spilled from Duke Energy's Dan River Steam Station into the Dan River in Eden, N.C., about 80 miles upstream from the Kerr Reservoir. Ash or grey colored water was seen in the reservoir a few days after the coal ash spill. Numerous agencies collaborated to respond and ensure a thorough assessment of the spill's impact in order to protect human health and the environment and guide the cleanup.

On May 22, 2014, EPA and Duke Energy entered into an Administrative Order on Consent (AOC). Under the requirements of the AOC, Duke Energy removed coal ash that had accumulated at the Schoolfield Dam, Town Creek Sand Bar, and at both the Danville and South Boston water treatment facilities. The removal action was completed in July 2014, and an estimated 4,000 cubic yards of coal ash were removed.

Following extensive surface water and sediment sampling, no further ash removal is planned. There have been no exceedances of human health screening thresholds, or any recent exceedances of ecological screening thresholds, for contaminants associated with ash. Further, removal of ash in some places could be more detrimental to the ecosystem than leaving it in place.

Recent Activities

Under the AOC, Duke Energy is also required to conduct long-term monitoring through July 2015 along the area that was impacted by the spill. There have been two sampling events, one in September and another in November, 2014. EPA has reviewed the results and determined that there continue to be no exceedances of human health or ecological screening thresholds for contaminants associated with coal ash.

Ongoing Activities

EPA will oversee Duke Energy's next two rounds of sampling planned through summer 2015 and, at that time, determine whether any additional sampling is needed.