



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

INFORMATION UPDATE

Eden North Carolina Ash Spill

Eden, Rockingham County, NC

No. 1

February 7, 2014

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

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For additional information and photos regarding this Site please visit:

epaosc.org/edencoalash

<http://www.vdh.state.va.us/news/pdf/Coal%20Ash%20Release%20Fact%20Sheet.pdf>

History

On February 2, 2014, Duke Energy identified that coal ash and ash pond water were leaking from a broken storm water management line into the Dan River in Rockingham County, NC. Duke Energy notified the North Carolina Emergency Response Center on the evening of February 2, 2014. North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources (NCDENR) was notified on February 3rd at roughly 8:00am and immediately dispatched staff to the site to conduct initial assessment and began surface water quality sampling. Following an initial assessment, NCDENR requested technical assistance from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). EPA Region 4 deployed two On-Scene Coordinators (OSCs) to the spill. A Region 3 OSC was also deployed due to the spill being adjacent to the Virginia border. Duke Energy made several attempts to plug the storm water management line, but due to head pressure the plug was not successful. Duke Energy continues attempts to repair the pipe with concrete, and has put controls in place to stop the ongoing release into the Dan River while permanent measures are implemented. A Unified Command has been established that includes the U.S. EPA, NCDENR, VA Department of Environmental Quality (VADEQ), the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Duke Energy. EPA is providing oversight of the emergency response and technical expertise to effectively address the release.

Ongoing Activities

EPA has sampling teams working collaboratively with Duke Energy, NCDENR, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Commonwealth of Virginia to collect water quality samples at drinking water treatment plant intakes, as well as surface waters along the Dan River. In addition, EPA and NCDENR are conducting sediment samples to help identify the elements in the ash and develop a plume model to determine the distribution of ash in the bottom of the river.

No impacts to drinking water have been reported by either the Danville or South Boston facilities, or any other water treatment plants downstream of the South Boston facility.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is providing technical assistance to address the natural resources at risk with technical resources such as contaminants specialists, endangered species biologists, and GIS/mapping experts.

Next Steps

EPA will continue to oversee operations and monitor the water quality in the Dan River and inform the public of our findings through our website at epaosc.org/edencoalash and through additional information updates as results become validated and available. EPA, in coordination with the State of NC and the Commonwealth of VA, are developing plans to assess the ash that has been released in the Dan River and oversee Duke Energy's actions to repair and assess the overall stability of the coal ash pond.

