



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 4**

**Subject:                   Situation Report (SitRep) # 4**

**Eden NC Coal Ash Spill  
Lat: 36.4958644, Long: -79.7220632**

**To:                         Distribution List**

**From:                    Region 4 Regional Emergency Operations Center**

**Reporting Period:    1600 02/06/2014 to 1600 02/07/2014**

**1.0 Introduction**

**1.1 Background**

<b>Site Name:</b>	<b>Eden NC Ash Spill</b>	<b>Location:</b>	<b>Eden, NC</b>
<b>Incident Date:</b>	<b>02/03/2014</b>	<b>Site ID:</b>	<b>B41W</b>
<b>Mobilization Date:</b>	<b>02/03/2014</b>	<b>Start Date:</b>	<b>02/03/2014</b>

At approximately 1500 hrs on February 2, 2014, security officials at the Duke Energy Plant located in Eden, North Carolina while conducting a routine security inspection noticed a drop in the levels of the primary coal ash pond. Security then notified Duke Energy Environmental Division. Officials whom after conducting a second inspection identified a coal ash release into the Dan River through a storm sewer management pipe that runs under the coal ash pond. Initial efforts by Duke Energy were not fully successful in stopping the release. The North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources (NCDENR) were notified of the release by Duke Energy on February 2, 2014, and investigated the facility. NCDENR notified the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 4 and requested to assist in the oversight of cleanup activities. Following coordination with the EPA Region 4 Telephone Duty Officer two OSCs were deployed to the scene from Atlanta, Georgia. Due to proximity and the potential for cross-regional impacts, an OSC was deployed from EPA Region 3 to provide additional assessment and oversight support.

## **2.0 Current Activities**

The following activities occurred during this reporting period:

### **Unified Command**

- Region 4 continues to participate in Unified Command with Duke Energy; NCDENR and the US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS).
- EPA Incident Commander Eichinger, EPA Region 3 OSC Bartos and Region 4 Community Involvement Coordinator (CIC) Angela Miller met with Danville Water Treatment Plant (WTP) representatives and community members in Danville, Virginia to discuss ongoing operations.
  - The EPA Region 4 CIC reports questions ranged from impacts to property value to drinking water impacts.

### **Water and Sediment Sampling**

- Ongoing water quality and sediment sampling activities include the following:
  - Two EPA Region 4 Science and Ecological Support Division (SESD) teams are on site.
    - One team dedicated to conducting sediment and water quality sampling activities along the River.
    - Second team dedicated to drinking water sampling efforts at the WTPs.
  - EPA Region 4 Superfund Technical Assessment and Response Team (START) provided sampling support, data management and quality control/quality control (QA/QC) support.
  - Duke Energy and NCDENR continue sampling efforts in the Dan River at various locations including downstream WTPs.

### **Mitigation Activities**

- Containment systems at the ash pond and storm sewer outfall have been installed and have successfully stopped all ongoing release to the Dan River.
- Duke Energy is finalizing plan for installation of a permanent plug along the entire length (greater than 1000 feet) of the storm sewer beneath the impoundment. Contingent upon weather and health and safety considerations, these actions may be implemented during the next operational period.

- Storm water that normally flows through the impacted storm sewer is being rerouted around the coal ash basin.

### **Public Information and Community Involvement**

- EPA Region 4 CIC is engaged with Duke Energy developing site specific facts sheets to inform the community of on-going activities.

### **Personnel and Work Schedules**

- Crews are working two 12 hour shifts :
  - 0700 hours – 1900 hours
  - 1900 hours – 0700 hours
- Current EPA Personnel On Site:
  - 3 Region 4 On-Scene Coordinators
  - 2 Region 3 On-Scene Coordinator
  - 1 EPA ERT Technical Specialist
  - 4 START
  - 2 CIC (One each from Region 3 and 4)
  - 1 EPA ERT Technical Specialist
  - 8 EPA SESD
  - 4 START Contractors (Tetra Tech)
  - 1 EPA Warehouse Contractor (QSI)
- Staffing requests and changes:
  - EPA OSC data manager from Region 3 mobilizing to site to assist IMT with data management.
  - Two EPA Region 4 OSCs will mobilize to the site on 02/08/2014 to rotate behind the current EPA Operations and Planning Section Chiefs.

## **Regional Emergency Operation Centers**

- Region 4 REOC personnel are assisting in production of SitReps and providing logistical and resource support.
- EPA Region 4 Technical Services Section (TSS) will provide data review with respect to risk assessment as data arrives, including though this weekend.
- EPA Region 4 Office of External Affairs continues to be actively engaged in fulfilling information requests in coordination with external affairs programs in EPA Region 3 and EPA Headquarters.
- Region 3 REOC personnel are coordinating resource and situational support with field personnel and EPA Region 4 REOC.
- TMDL Development Section:
  - Developed a dynamic model of the coal ash spill plume predictive of pond contents in the Dan River from the spill site to South Boston WTP. Awaiting field data for model calibration/verification.
  - Coordinating with NCDENR to obtain Lake Kerr through Lake Gaston Roanoke Basin model from University of Mississippi (via City of Virginia Beach) for purposes of converting it to simulate spill fate and transport in these water bodies.
- Municipal and Industrial NPDES Section:
  - Requested information from NCDENR and OSC about prior and current NPDES discharge and permitting status of the failed storm water pipe and outfall 002A, addressed in NCDENRs 02/05/2014 minor permit modification.
- Region 4 Regional Incident Coordination Team (RICT) convened at 0900 hrs to receive update on response progress and outstanding issues.

## **ATTACHMENTS**

Ash Pond Schematic showing locations of damaged storm drain and operational areas of interest.

**Situation Updates will be posted by 1600 each day for the time being.**