



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 4**

**Subject:**                    **Situation Report (SitRep) # 7**  
  
                                 **Eden NC Coal Ash Spill**  
                                 **Lat: 36.4958644, Long: -79.7220632**

**To:**                            **Distribution List**

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

**Reporting Period:**    **1600 02/09/2014 to 1600 02/10/2014**

**Introduction**

<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>

**Background**

While conducting a routine security inspection at approximately 1500 hrs on February 2, 2014, security officials at the Duke Energy Plant located in Eden, North Carolina noticed a drop in the levels of the primary coal ash pond. Duke Energy's Environmental Division conducted a subsequent inspection and identified a coal ash release into the Dan River through a storm sewer management pipe. The pipe runs beneath the coal ash pond and drains rainfall off the facility. The pipe is not part of the ash management system. Initial efforts by Duke Energy to stop the flow were unsuccessful, and the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources (NCDENR) was notified of the release later in the day on February 2, 2014. Upon responding to the scene, NCDENR notified the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 4 and requested EPA assistance 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.

## **Current Activities**

The following activities occurred during this reporting period:

### **Unified Command**

- EPA Region 4, Duke Energy (Duke), North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources (NCDENR), and the US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (VDEQ) continue to be part of the Unified Command.
- EPA Region 4 Science and Ecological Support Division (SESD) personnel are on site conducting sediment and water quality sampling activities.
- EPA Environmental Response Team (ERT) is assisting UC with planning for near term removal activities associated with the river.
- EPA Site information can be found at [http://www.epaosc.org/site/site\\_profile.aspx?site\\_id=9065](http://www.epaosc.org/site/site_profile.aspx?site_id=9065)
- Duke Energy Site information can be found at <https://www.duke-energy.com/power-plants/coal-fired/dan-river-response.asp>
- NCDENR Dan River Site Information can be found at <http://portal.ncdenr.org/web/guest/dan-river-spill>

### **Water and Sediment Sampling**

- Water quality sampling is being conducted by Duke, NCDENR, EPA-SESD and the EPA Region 4 START Contractor Tetra Tech. Sampling locations include the spill source, several downstream locations, and potable water intakes at the Danville and South Boston, Virginia, water treatment plants (WTP). EPA Region 4 is developing a website for distribution of EPA analytical data and other site information.
- SESD completed the one mile interval sampling from the discharge point to the Danville WTP, approximately 25 river miles.
- NCDENR continues to collect water quality samples at four locations, one upstream of the Duke facility and three downstream. The furthest downstream location collected by NCDENR is located at the Virginia/North Carolina border. Sample results will be posted at the NCDENR website.
- VDEQ developed a surface water sampling plan on the Dan River. This plan is currently being reviewed and could be implemented in the next couple of days.

- No impacts to drinking water have been reported by either the Danville or South Boston water treatment facilities.
- The EPA Region 3 OSCs continue to communicate with downstream WTPs, Virginia Department of Health and Virginia Department of Emergency Management.
- EPA Region 4 is currently relaying validated sampling results with its response partners in the field. All validated data is being prepared for future public release in coordination with Region 4 REOC and EPA HQ.
- Duke has received analytical results and has posted the data on its website.

### **Coal Ash Basin Sampling**

- The EPA is waiting for results from the two samples collected from the primary coal ash basin. Samples collected will be analyzed for benzene/toluene/ethylbenzene/xylene (BTEX), Total Metals, and Toxicity Characteristic Leachate Procedure (TCLP) Metals.

### **Mitigation Activities**

- Duke Energy finished excavation near and around the damaged pipe and has installed trench boxes to allow workers to enter the area and safely work. The full section of pipe will be grouted once all confined space plan are approved, likely during the next operational period.
- UC, USACE and EPA Environmental Response Team (ERT) continue discussions on methods of removing the large slug of ash that has collected near the damaged storm water outfall. In the meantime, a turbidity curtain will be installed around the slug to prevent further ash migration down river.

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

- The EPA Region 4 CIC is working with Duke Energy developing site-specific information updates to inform the community of on-going activities. The EPA Region 4 Office of External Affairs (OEA) continues to be actively engaged in fulfilling information requests in coordination with external affairs programs in EPA Region 3 and EPA Headquarters.
- Region 3 and Region 4 CICs have scheduled a community briefing in Danville, VA for 02/11/2014 at 1830 hrs at the City of Danville Municipal Building.
- The CICs are also in the process of preparing community briefings in South Boston, VA on 02/13/2014 and one in Eden, NC on 02/19/2014, weather permitting.

## **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, 1 CIC
  - 3 Region 3 On-Scene Coordinators, 1 PIO
  - 5 SESD
  - 1 EPA ERT Technical Specialist
  - 4 START
  - 1 QSI Contractor Support

## **STATE Reps**

NCDENR	1
VA DEQ	1

## **Regional Emergency Operation Centers**

- Region 4 REOC personnel are assisting in production of SitReps and providing logistical and resource support.
- Region 3 REOC personnel are coordinating resource and situational support with field personnel and EPA Region 4 REOC.
- The Region 4 Technical Services Section is reviewing sampling results and providing suggestions for additional analyses and comparative values.
- Region 4 OEA is working closely with EPA Headquarters to stand up an EPA website for viewing of site information, including summaries of EPA analytical data.
- Region 4 media and regulatory programs are providing support as necessary as requested by the on-scene Incident Management Team.

## **ATTACHMENTS**

**Situation Updates are currently being posted by 1700 each day.**