



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 4**

**Subject:                   Situation Report (SitRep) # 9**

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

**To:                         Distribution List**

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

**Reporting Period:    1600 02/11/2014 to 1600 02/12/2014**

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

### **Special Message**

- The National Weather Service has issued a Winter Storm Warning for the cities of Eden, NC, Danville, VA and South Boston, VA. There is a potential of 6 to 10 inches of snow fall accumulation from early Wednesday morning through Thursday evening. UC implemented severe winter weather plan and site activities were curtailed to a minimum. Sampling activities will be suspended for at least the next operational period

### **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). Duke, and NCDENR sampling results can be found at the aforementioned web sites. EPA Region 4 is developing an EPA website for distribution of EPA analytical data and other site information.
- Region 4 SESD had one team collecting samples along the Dan River. The crew collected two surface water and one sediment sample during this operational period at South Boston. Due to inclement weather, river sampling was discontinued at 1200 hrs.

- Region 4 EPA START contractors collected two surface water samples and one drinking water sample from the Danville WTP. They also collected one ash sample from the primary basin on the Duke Energy Site. No samples
- NCDENR suspended river sampling due to inclement weather.
- VDEQ finished water sampling on the Dan River, and have delivered them to a lab for analysis.
- 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. EPA data can be found on the aforementioned EPA website
- Duke has received analytical results and has posted the data on its website.

### **Coal Ash Basin Sampling**

- In addition to the sample collected today, EPA is still awaiting for results from earlier 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 the video inspection of the damaged storm water pipe. The results will be included in the grouting plans. Due to inclement weather, grouting operations will not start until UC determines that site conditions allows for safe operations.
- USACE and UC approved the localized ash removal plans and Duke Energy has brought in a contractor to conduct ash removal operations. A turbidity curtain was installed around the submerged ash pile near the discharge and unknown amount of material was removed from the shoreline by vacuum truck. Due to inclement weather, this activity was suspended until conditions allow for safe ash recovery operations.

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

- EPA OSCs from Regions 3 and 4 and EPA Community Involvement Coordinators (CIC) conducted a community briefing in Danville, VA. Approximately 100 residents, environmental activists, state and local officials attended.

- EPA gave a presentation on its roles and responsibilities at this site.
- Officials from Virginia Secretary of Natural Resources and VDEQ also addressed the crowd.
- In attendance were representatives from the offices of Sen. Warner (VA), Sen. Kaine (VA) and Rep. Hurt (VA).
- The Eden, NC community briefing will be on 02/19/2014. Due to inclement weather, the community briefing scheduled for 02/13/2014 was tentatively changed to 02/20/2014, pending confirmation from community leaders.

### **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
  - 7 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 External Affairs 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.**