



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 4**

**Subject:                   Situation Report (SitRep) # 13**

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

**To:                         Distribution List**

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

**Reporting Period:    1600 02/16/2014 to 1600 02/17/2014**

**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 On-Scene Coordinators (OSC)s 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), the US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), and the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (VDEQ) continue to be part of the Unified Command (UC).
- EPA Region 4 Science and Ecological Support Division (SESD) personnel are on site conducting sediment and water quality sampling.
- EPA Environmental Response Team (ERT) is assisting UC with planning for near term removal activities associated with the river.
- Websites
  - EPA Site information can be found at <http://epa.gov/region4/duke-energy/> and [http://www.epaossc.org/site/site\\_profile.aspx?site\\_id=9065](http://www.epaossc.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>
  - VDEQ Dan River Site Information can be found at <http://deq.virginia.gov/ConnectWithDEQ/EnvironmentalInformation/NorthCarolinaCoalAshSpill.aspx>

### **SPECIAL WEATHER MESSAGE**

- The US Army Corps of Engineers (COE) is now releasing water for energy production at the Philpot Dam upstream of the spill site. The river crested overnight, but releases from the Philpot Dam are resulting in no net observed drop at the spill site.

### **Drinking Water Treatment Plants Status and Sampling**

- The increased river flow from last week's snowfall and rain threatens to entrain ash further down the river. EPA and state partners are in communication with the water treatment plants (WTPs) to determine if any additional ash is showing up in their flocculation basins. The Danville WTP has reported an increase in the turbidity of the river water. The levels reported today are down from those reported yesterday. The plant reports that flocculation is effective

in removing this sediment. They will continue to monitor the situation and report any problems. Duke has delivered sample bottles to be filled in case noticeable ash is seen in the flocculation basins. To date, no samples from the flocculation basins have been collected.

- SESD collected pre- and post-treatment samples at the Danville WTP this morning.
- SESD will collect pre- and post-treatment water samples from the South Boston WTP on Tuesday.
- 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.

### **Surface Water and Sediment Sampling**

- SESD did not collect any samples from the river due to high and swift water.
- NCDENR collected from their 4 standard locations today. The NCDENR locations are generally accessible without a boat.

### **Coal Ash Basin Sampling**

- The EPA has received the results of the ash basin samples from SESD. The ash was analyzed for total VOCs, SVOCs, and metals. The sample results were not compared to any health-based criteria, and are only useful in determining downstream constituents of concern. These results have been posted on the [epa.gov](http://epa.gov) website.
- EPA's technical contractor on site is currently validating another batch of coal ash samples, which included analyses for bromides and chlorides.

### **Mitigation Activities**

- Duke Energy continues with their grouting plans of the storm water drain. However, grouting today was halted due to an unreported issue. The OSC plans to confer with Duke about this later today.
- The scaffolding surrounding the outfall for the 36-inch stormwater pipe that NCDENR has requested Duke close has been inspected and was cleared for use. NCDENR collected a sample of the outfall today, as well as a sample of the influx at the beginning of the pipe. Duke Energy is reporting that grouting this pipe should be relatively easy to complete.

- Duke's contractors did not attempt any ash removal today as the increased water levels made it unsafe and likely ineffective. Water levels are an estimated 3 feet higher than when the spill occurred, placing the ash in deeper water. Crews will not attempt again until the water levels return to normal.

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

- The EPA Region 4 Community Involvement Coordinator (CIC) is engaged with Duke Energy developing site-specific information updates to inform the community of on-going activities. The 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.
- The Eden, NC community briefing will be on February 19<sup>th</sup>. The South Boston, VA community briefing is confirmed for February 20<sup>th</sup>.
- The EPA Region 4 continues to share validated sampling results with our response partners. Region 4 released a second information sheet. Validated data is prepared for public release in coordination with the Region 4 Regional Emergency Operations Center, Region 4 Office of External Affairs, and EPA Headquarters on the incident-specific website.
- Duke and NCDENR analytical results are posted on their websites.

### **Personnel and Work Schedules**

- Duke Energy crews are working two 12 hour shifts :
  - 0700 hours – 1900 hours
  - 1900 hours – 0700 hours
- EPA and contractor personnel are now on one 12-hour shift per day, 0700-1900 hours.

### **CURRENT EPA PERSONNEL ON SITE:**

- REGION 4: 1 On-Scene Coordinator, 0 CIC
  - Shift change occurred with OSC Eichinger replacing OSC Williamson.
- REGION 3: 0 On-Scene Coordinators, 0 PIO
- 9 SESD
- 0 EPA ERT Technical Specialist
- 3 Superfund Technical Assessment And Response Team (START)

## **STATE Reps**

- NCDENR 1
- VA DEQ 0

## **Other Federal**

- 0 US Fish and Wildlife

## **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**

Facility Layout Map

Unified Sampling Location Map

**Situation Updates are currently being posted by 1700 each day. ERRB, in consultation with Region 3 and our State partners, has determined that due to a stabilization of site activity, a downgrading of the number of personnel involved, and the transition into a long-term removal action, SitReps will be produced on a 48-hour basis for the next week, at which time another assessment will be performed.**