

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

March 9, 2009

OFFICE OF
THE ADMINISTRATOR

Plant Manager
Barry Power Station
15300 U.S. Highway 43 North
Bucks, Alabama 36512

Dear Sir or Madam:

The release of over 5 million cubic yards (1.1 billion gallons) of coal ash from the Tennessee Valley Authority's Kingston, Tennessee, facility in December 2008 serves as an important reminder of the need for our continued diligence on disposal units where coal combustion wastes are managed. The coal ash from the facility flooded more than 300 acres of land, damaging homes and property.

It is critical that we all work to the best of our abilities to prevent a similar catastrophic failure and the resultant environmental damage. One of the first steps in this effort is to assess the stability of the impoundments and similar units that contain coal combustion residuals and by-products to determine if and where corrective measures may be needed and then to carry out those measures as expeditiously as possible. I am asking that you assist us in this endeavor by giving your personal attention to the enclosed information request issued under the authority of Section 104(e) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act and that you work with us throughout the process. By exercising the utmost care and diligence in examining whether there are any safety concerns at the units and then taking appropriate actions to address these concerns, you will be ensuring the protection of public health, safety, and the environment.

Thank you for making this a priority at the highest levels of your organization.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lisa P. Jackson".

Lisa P. Jackson

Enclosure



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