

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT



Roane County Joint Information Center Kingston Ash Release

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Additional Water Sample Results Indicate Municipal Drinking Water Continues to be Safe New EPA Data Released for TVA Kingston Fly Ash Release

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation and Tennessee Valley Authority continue to be involved in sampling activities. All results from each agency have consistently indicated that municipal drinking water supplies are safe. Each agency is using certified labs for analysis, including EPA's facility in Athens, Georgia, the state of Tennessee lab in Nashville and independent certified labs in Maryville and Mt. Juliet. An overview of each agency's most recent data follows.

TDEC Data Update

The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation has received additional water sample results for both treated drinking water and untreated river water collected at the Kingston and Rockwood water treatment plants. All treated drinking water results are well within drinking water standards, indicating both municipal water supplies are safe.

The sample of untreated river water collected on Dec. 24 had an aluminum concentration slightly above the secondary drinking water standard of 0.20 milligrams/Liter. Aluminum is naturally occurring in clay and this value would be reduced by the treatment process. Secondary drinking water standards are non-enforceable guidelines regulating contaminants in treated drinking water that may cause cosmetic or aesthetic effects.

Additional results from both Kingston and Rockwood collected on Dec. 31 also indicate that all treated drinking water results are well within both primary and secondary drinking water standards. All untreated water collected also met the drinking water standards for metals prior to treatment.

The department is also sampling private drinking water wells in a four mile radius of the site. So far, samples have been collected from approximately 40 private properties. Residents in this area whose would like their well tested may call 865-717-4006.

All results from Department of Environment and Conservation sampling are posted on the department's Web site at www.tn.gov/environment. The site will continue to be updated with new results as they come in. The Web site also now contains some historical data obtained from TVA on ash sampling from the years 1990, 1992, 1995 and 2005.

EPA Data Update

EPA has preliminary data for the fly ash samples collected on the undisturbed portion of the fly ash dredge cell as well as the disturbed portion of fly ash material. Residents are not currently in direct

exposure to this material found at elevated levels, and therefore are not subject to a direct health threat from the fly ash material being measured onsite.

Ash samples from the roadway adjacent to the fly ash dredge cell were also taken. This preliminary data shows that some arsenic levels detected exceed EPA residential removal action levels at 40 mg/kg, but are still well below EPA industrial removal action levels at 177 mg/kg. TVA has taken full responsibility for cleanup and engaged the necessary resources to ensure the fly ash material will be cleaned up appropriately under state and federal oversight.

EPA conducted municipal water intake sampling at the Kingston, Cumberland and Rockwood facilities. Preliminary data indicate that no elevated levels of contaminants were found in the municipal water intake.

EPA also conducted testing of four private drinking water wells along Swan Pond Road in the impacted area on Tuesday, Dec. 30, 2008. Preliminary data indicates that no elevated level of contaminants were found in the four private drinking water wells sampled.

Surface water and sediment sampling data from Dec. 23, 2008 was posted on Jan. 2, 2009 and is the same data that was earlier reported stating that an elevated level of arsenic was found in the Emory River. This data also indicated that an elevated level of arsenic was found in one sediment sample taken on the Emory River. There have been no indications, to date, showing that drinking water has been affected by the fly ash material. The advice issued earlier from the Joint Information Center on potential health effects from exposure to the fly ash material addressed the issue of these elevated levels of arsenic found on Dec. 23, 2008.

EPA sample results are being posted as they become available at http://www.epaossc.org/doc_list.asp?site_id=4642.

TVA Data Update

TVA has received data from a number of locations for Dec. 22, 23, 26 and 29. Results indicate that raw water samples taken at the city of Kingston Water Treatment Plant are within standards for treated drinking water for metal contaminants.

At the Kingston power plant site, water samples taken on Dec. 22 at the release area in the Emory River contained high amounts of suspended material following the ash release. Repeat testing on Dec. 23, 26 and 29 at the power plant site showed amounts of suspended material is trending downwards. The levels for metals met state requirements for protection of fish and aquatic life or were below lab detection limits. Results from other sites sampled on the Clinch and Tennessee River portions of Watts Bar Reservoir show metal contaminants at levels that meet requirements for safe drinking water or were below detection limits.

These sample results can be found at www.tva.com. Both total metals and dissolved metals are reported for the samples. Dissolved metals reflect only the metals that have dissolved within the water column.

JIC Schedule

The Joint Information Center will operate from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday and 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 5. There will be a media briefing at the Joint Information Center on Monday, Jan. 5 at 11 a.m.

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