



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 4**

Subject: Situation Report (SitRep) # 11

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

To: Distribution List

From: Region 4 Regional Emergency Operations Center

Reporting Period: 1600 02/13/2014 to 1600 02/15/2014

Introduction

Site Name:	Eden NC Ash Spill	Location:	Eden, NC
Incident Date:	02/03/2014	Site ID:	B41W
Mobilization Date:	02/03/2014	Start Date:	02/03/2014

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.
- Websites
 - EPA Site information can be found at <http://epa.gov/region4/duke-energy/> and 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>
 - VADEQ Dan River Site Information can be found at <http://deq.virginia.gov/ConnectWithDEQ/EnvironmentalInformation/NorthCarolinaCoalAshSpill.aspx>

Special Message

- UC implemented the severe winter weather plan and site activities on February 13. Over 15 inches of snow fell in the Eden, NC area that night. Site activities since then have been curtailed to a minimum.
- All sampling activities were suspended until Saturday, February 15. Even at this time, water levels on the river are making boating more dangerous, and sample collection more difficult in the swifter currents.
- The increased river flow threatens to entrain ash further down the river. EPA and state partners are in communication with the WTPs to determine if any additional ash is showing up in their flocculation basins. Visual inspection of turbidity samples may also provide insight into any increased influx of ash into their systems.

- The US Army Corps of Engineers (COE) is holding water back at the Phillpot Dam upstream of the spill site. It is unknown at what point COE will be forced to release water.

Water and Sediment Sampling

- Due to weather, no sampling occurred on the 13th or 14th. Sampling resumed on the 15th, with START and SEDS resuming activities. Both sediment and surface water samples are being collected today.
- Due to a 24-hour transit time for river water from the spill site to the Danville WTP intake, EPA will delay sampling at the intake until tomorrow, when a pre- and post-treatment sample will be collected.
- 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.
- All EPA sampling results will be posted on <http://epa.gov/region4/duke-energy/>

Coal Ash Basin Sampling

- The EPA has received the results of the ash basin samples from SEDS. 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 website.

Mitigation Activities

- Duke Energy continues with their grouting plans of the storm water drain. On site crews continue with storm water, excavation well and pipe vacuum monitoring.
- Over the weekend, an inspector from the NCDENR's Division of Energy, Mineral and Land Resources (EMLR) Land Quality Section viewed camera video from a second stormwater drain beneath the ash, a 36-inch concrete pipe. This video had already been viewed and processed by Duke and UC, and was placed into a low-priority status. Though leaking, it was believed that most of the water in the pipe was water the pipe was intended to carry, i.e. facility stormwater, and not groundwater infiltration. EMLR however, recommended the pipe be repaired in several places, and NCDENR issued a 10-day notice for Duke to submit plans to repair the pipe.

- Increased surface water runoff from the inclement weather has caused infiltration of the coffer box and a possible weakening of the supporting walls. Four 2,500lb sandbags were brought in to help shore up the box.
- Increased river flow and snow cover has temporarily halted the ash removal from the river. Duke expects to resume this tomorrow after making some additional site preparations today.

Public Information and Community Involvement

- The EPA Region 4 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 19th. The South Boston, VA community briefing is confirmed for February 20th.
- 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 received analytical results back and posted the data on its website.

Personnel and Work Schedules

- Crews are working two 12 hour shifts :
 - 0700 hours – 1900 hours
 - 1900 hours – 0700 hours

CURRENT EPA PERSONNEL ON SITE:

- 1 Region 4 On-Scene Coordinators, 0 CIC
- 0 Region 3 On-Scene Coordinators, 0 PIO
- 9 SESD
- 0 EPA ERT Technical Specialist
- 3 START

STATE Reps

- NCDENR 1
- VA DEQ 0

Other Federal

- 1 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.