



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 4**

Subject: **Situation Report (SitRep) # 5**

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

To: **Distribution List**

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

Reporting Period: **1600 02/07/2014 to 1600 02/08/2014**

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

- In addition to 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) was incorporated into 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) has mobilized to the site and is assisting UC with planning for long term removal activities.
- EPA Site information can be found at 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>

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.
- SESD continues to collect sediment samples every half-river mile along the Dan River downstream of the release point in order to document the extent and thickness of the ash plume. By the end of this reporting period, SESD expects to have completed 6 river miles.
- NCDENR continues to collect water quality samples at three locations, one upstream of the Duke facility and two downstream. The furthest downstream location collected by NCDENR is located at the Virginia/North Carolina border. Sample results are pending.
- VDEQ is currently assessing the need to begin river sampling on their side of the border and reports that they may begin early next week.

- 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. The EPA has received access and has collected pre (intake) and post (finished) water sampling at both the Danville and South Boston WTPs.

Coal Ash Basin Sampling

- The EPA is waiting for results from the two samples collected from the primary coal ash basin. Samples collected will be analyzed for benzene/toluene/ethylbenzene/xylene (BTEX), Total Metals, Toxicity Characteristic Leachate Procedure (TCLP) Metals,

Mitigation Activities

- During the overnight period, Duke Energy installed a permanent plug in the breached sewer pipe. Under the oversight of 3 EPA OSCs, Duke poured 2 truckloads of grout into a 27-foot long section of the pipe near the outfall into the river. Duke reports that the as-built design exceeds the engineering requirements by 35%. While the grout sets, all work within the ash cell has stopped so as to limit impacts to the curing of the grout. During the next reporting period, Duke will assess the quality of the installation and, if the set is sufficient, resume excavation activities within the cell. Duke continues to work on engineering designs for plugging the entire length of the pipe and permanently abandoning the system.
- There is currently no active release into the river. All water is being collected and pumped back into the ash cell.

Public Information and Community Involvement

- The EPA Region 4 CIC is engaged with Duke Energy developing site-specific facts sheets 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 EPA REGION 4 has received a limited amount of validated sampling results and has shared these verbally with our response partners. Region 4 is still awaiting sufficient validated data to prepare a information sheet for public release in coordination with the Region 4 Regional Emergency Operations Center and EPA Headquarters.
- Duke has received analytical results back and is planning on posting them on its website, referenced above.

- The Incident Management team is working with EPA Regions 4 and 3 Offices of External affairs to mobilize a PIO to Danville to deal with media and public interests there.

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
 - 2 Region 3 On-Scene Coordinators (1 Data Management Team Leader)
 - 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

Facility Layout Map

Unified Sampling Location Map

Duke Energy Sampling Location Map

Situation Updates are currently being posted by 1700 each day.