



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

INFORMATION UPDATE – SAMPLING RESULTS

Eden North Carolina Coal Ash Spill

Eden, Rockingham County, NC

No. 2

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This site information update summarizes the response, ongoing activities, and next steps.

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For additional information regarding this Site please visit:

epaosc.org/edencoalash

<http://www.vdh.state.va.us/news/pdf/Coal%20Ash%20Release%20Fact%20Sheet.pdf>

<http://portal.ncdenr.org/web/guest/dan-river-spill>

What is Coal Ash?

Coal ash is a gray, powdery byproduct of burning coal to produce energy. It is a substance that is composed of the materials that are left over after the coal is burned, including fine sand (called silica), unburned carbon and various metals such as arsenic, cadmium, chromium, copper, lead, mercury, nickel, selenium and zinc.

Direct contact with coal ash may cause skin irritation. Avoid contact with submerged or floating ash and if ash is contacted, wash off with soap and water. Under dry and windy conditions coal ash can become airborne and pose a potential health hazard if inhaled over a long period of time. The coal ash could also potentially cause an ecological impact to the river's aquatic life.

Sampling locations

EPA has been collecting water quality and sediment samples at the spill source and several locations upstream and downstream. Locations include intakes and potable water at the Danville, South Boston and Clarksville Water Treatment Plants.

Is my drinking water safe?

At this time, our water results indicate that drinking water meets EPA standards. We are still evaluating possible ecological impacts. Residents with private wells should not be impacted by the spill, but if you have a private well, live in North Carolina and are concerned, please contact the Public Information Office of the North Carolina Department of Water Resources at (919)707-9014. If you live in Virginia and are concerned about your private well, please consult with Southside Health District at (434)799-5190.

Ongoing Activities

The end of the storm water management line has been permanently plugged. Duke Energy plans to continue work on engineering designs for plugging the entire length of the pipe and permanently abandoning the system. There continues to be no active release into the river. All water is being collected and pumped back into the ash cell. EPA plans to continue monitoring the water quality in the Dan River and will inform the community of our findings through our website, briefings and published information updates.

Next Steps

Once sample data goes through final review, EPA plans to share its sampling results by posting data on our website. EPA is currently looking into long term cleanup options in the Dan River.