

Subject: Mayors Reassure Residents of Water Quality

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From: Beeland Richard <Beeland_r@mail.chattanooga.gov>

To: <undisclosed-recipients:;>

Conversation: Mayors Reassure Residents of Water Quality

**For Immediate Release
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Mayors Reassure Residents of Water Quality

Chattanooga, Tennessee – Chattanooga Mayor Ron Littlefield and Hamilton County Mayor Claude Ramsey want to reassure the people of Chattanooga and Hamilton County that water supplies have not been contaminated by the TVA Kingston Power Plant coal ash spill in Roane County. Both Mayors participated in a conference call morning with officials from TVA, the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Representatives from TVA, TDEC and the EPA assure Mayors Ramsey and Littlefield that they will be immediately notified if there should be any variation in water quality.

Water monitoring is continuing by all agencies for any indication of potential contamination.

Both Mayors have also been in contact with representatives from the Tennessee American Water Company (TAWC) and local water utilities. Officials with the TAWC and the local water utilities tell

us they have been monitoring their water supplies and find no evidence of contamination.

Mayor Littlefield has requested that the Chattanooga Department of Public Works carry out periodic testing to ensure water quality standards are being met. This testing period will go on as long as necessary.

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Richard J. Beeland
Media Relations Director
beeland_r@mail.chattanooga.gov

City of Chattanooga

Ron Littlefield, Mayor
City Hall
Chattanooga, Tennessee 37402
423.425.6219 office
423.290.3470 cell

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Raymond Golden
Raymond.Golden@amwater.com
859.335.3662 office
949.231.0590 cell

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tennessee American Water Monitors Local Water Quality Following Coal Ash Spill

Company Receiving Regular Updates from State and Federal Regulators, TVA

Chattanooga, Tenn. (December 31, 2008) – Tennessee American Water continues to monitor and test the water it provides its customers in the aftermath of a coal ash spill which occurred in Kingston, Tennessee on Dec. 22.

“To date, there have been no issues associated with the water supply to the City of Chattanooga and the surrounding communities served by Tennessee American Water,” said John Watson, president of Tennessee American Water.

Tennessee American Water continues to closely monitor the situation and has been in regular communication with lead regulatory and utility officials "on-scene" in Kingston, which is 40 miles west of Knoxville.

“We have stayed in contact with the EPA, TVA and the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) as we closely watch and test our water supply from the Tennessee River,” said Watson.

The regulatory and utility agencies in charge have extensive resources working round-the-clock to contain and cleanup the spill. Likewise, they are monitoring for environmental impacts to raw water supplies from the Tennessee River. To date, the closest drinking water intake to the spill, which is in Kingston six miles downstream from the event, has been able to maintain its drinking water within federal standards.

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Tennessee American Water has instituted daily sampling of the drinking water to ensure there are no elevated levels of contaminants. The company's "state-of-the-art" treatment process is designed to remove these types of contaminants through a multi-staged approach. The treatment process, under most conditions, should successfully remove contaminants resulting from the spill should they travel this far down the river.

"We will continue to do daily testing until environmental regulatory officials are certain the issue has passed," said Watson.

Tennessee American Water is a member of the "Partnership for Safe Drinking Water," a voluntary water quality program whose mission is to improve the quality of drinking water delivered to customers of surface water treatment plants by optimization of treatment plant performance. By instituting this voluntary high standard of water quality, drinking water is treated to a higher standard of water quality and is less likely to be negatively impacted by water contaminants.

Watson said the coal ash spill is less likely to have an impact in Chattanooga since it occurred 115 miles upstream from Tennessee American Water's intake structures. There are two TVA-controlled dams between the site of the spill and Tennessee American's Water's intake. While regulatory agencies will continue to assess the environmental impact and concerns at the site of the coal ash incident near Kingston, TN, Watson said, the dam and lock system on the Tennessee River and lower water levels in the river which were already programmed for winter operations by TVA as part of the river management plan will aid in blocking any suspended material and would control the streamflow rates in the river. This along with dilution of any residual amounts of coal ash, to the extent they were released downstream, will allow contaminants to be captured or diluted at the surface or settle into the river sediment and no longer be an immediate concern.

Tennessee American Water, a wholly owned subsidiary of American Water (NYSE: AWK), is the largest investor-owned water utility in the state, providing high-quality and reliable water services to approximately 400,000 people in Tennessee and northern Georgia. Founded in 1886, American Water is the largest investor-owned U.S. water and wastewater utility company. With headquarters in Voorhees, N.J., the company employs more than 7,000 dedicated professionals who provide drinking water, wastewater and other related services to approximately 15 million people in 32 states and Ontario, Canada. More information can be found by visiting www.amwater.com

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