

Fact Sheet
Ash Removal Plan
Flood Risk Increase
February 2009

Ash Removal Plan

- TVA submitted its proposed Phase I Ash Removal Plan to the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, on February 5 and is requesting their approval.
- The purpose of the Phase I plan is to begin to remove ash from the Emory River channel to help reduce flood risk, improve water quality and mitigate impacts to the aquatic community.
- TVA has proposed dredging the ash from the river channel using hydraulic dredges. The proposal includes pumping the material through a pipe to the onsite sluice channel, allowing it to dry, and then moving it to a temporary storage location onsite.
- The material will be dredged to the side of the channel and allowed to dry and then moved temporarily to the area where the current ball fields exist onsite. This area is adjacent to the channel.
- The water from the dredged material will flow back into the sluice channel which flows into the existing ash pond where any suspended material will be allowed to settle and then the water will be released back to the river. This is currently how all ash water is handled at the plant.
- TVA currently monitors water being released from its ash ponds and will continue to monitor to ensure the water released continues to meet the standards set by TVA's existing environmental permits.
- During dredging, TVA will also implement a number of monitoring procedures to minimize dredging impact on the river. Those procedures will include turbidity monitoring, water quality monitoring and aquatic monitoring. (Turbidity monitoring determines how much material has been stirred up within the river, above and below the dredge area.)
- Other air, water and soil monitoring that TVA has been performing since the ash spill will also continue.
- TVA continues to work with TDEC and EPA to develop a long-term plan for ash disposal. This will include going through the National Environmental Policy Act review and public input process.

Flood Risk

- The coal ash in the Emory River and the temporary underwater rock dike known as weir #1 have temporarily raised the flood elevations from the Kingston Fossil plant affecting approximately 11 miles upstream through Harriman. Until the ash and the weir are removed, there is an increased risk of flooding for some river-front properties.
- For this reason, TVA is contacting homeowners in the affected areas to assure them that if a flood were to occur, TVA will be financially responsible for flood damages to their homes that would not have occurred under normal conditions, in the absence of the ash in the river and the temporary weir.
- In the early aftermath of the spill, our first priority was to contain the ash in order to minimize it moving downstream into the Clinch and Tennessee Rivers. TVA was aware that the combination of the ash in the river and the temporary weir was likely to alter the upstream flood elevations. TVA determined that the need for an immediate response to the spill was necessary to contain the ash, and the increased risk that might result from a change in the upstream elevations was a choice that needed to be made under the circumstances.
- Data has been collected by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to develop post-spill flood profiles. This helped us determine changes in the flood elevations in the surrounding area so affected property owners could be identified and contacted. TVA is presently in the process of contacting these homeowners.
- TVA has performed post-spill flood-risk evaluations and determined that about 100 properties may be in the 100-year post-spill floodplain that were not previously within the 100-year floodplain.
- A 100-year flood means a rare flood event that has a 1-percent (1 in 100) chance of occurring in any given year; this does not indicate a time period of 100 years between floods of this magnitude.
- Within the next several weeks, surveyors will be performing individual home floor elevation surveys so TVA has the specific information needed in the unlikely event of a flood.
- The change in the flood elevation is only a temporary one until TVA removes the ash and underwater weir from the river. After the ash and weir are removed, the flood elevations will return to levels established before the spill. TVA's financial responsibility related to flood damages will also end at this time.

- If you are interested in purchasing flood insurance, be aware that National Flood Insurance through FEMA, once you have finalized the application process and been approved for insurance, does not take affect for 30 days. With TVA's commitment to be responsible for paying for any flood damages to homes that would not have occurred under normal conditions, in the absence of the ash in the river and the temporary weir, property owners may not need this insurance.

Recreation

- Summer water-based recreation along the Clinch and Tennessee Rivers should not be affected.
- Due to the dredging and barge activities, TVA recommends that people do not recreate in the Emory River from mile marker 0 to 4. This will ensure the safety of the public and recovery works.

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