

Water Quality Sampling Summary

Who is conducting sampling?: USEPA Region 4, Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC), and TVA crews have been conducting water sampling and assessing water quality of public drinking water supplies, private wells, in-stream river water (both near the slide and at multiple downstream locations) as well as local springs.

Number of samples taken (as of 01/06/09): TVA has taken over 150 water samples, TDEC has taken more than 70 samples, and EPA has taken at least 44 samples since the incident. In addition to these samples for chemical analysis TVA crews have taken over 170 instream indicator readings to check pH, dissolved oxygen, and conductivity. In addition, TDEC has taken more than 25 instream indicator readings.

Water sampling results so far show that:

- All EPA, TDEC and TVA water treatment plant sampling results indicate municipal drinking water has been and continues to meet the standards. Untreated river water samples closest to the Kingston water treatment plant have consistently met requirements for primary drinking water standards. All EPA, TDEC and TVA water treatment plant and residential well sampling results indicate drinking water continues to meet the standards. Water samples have been tested from a total of four local water treatment facilities, Rockwood, Harriman, Cumberland and Kingston and numerous residential wells with no results above regulatory limits.
- TDEC is sampling the Kingston and Rockwood Water Plant intakes and processed water through mid-January. These samples will be taken daily and compared to Safe Drinking Water Act standards. The analyses are being performed by the Tennessee Department of Health Laboratory in Nashville, and the laboratory data will be released by TDEC.
- At the Kingston power plant site, analysis of water samples taken shortly after the release (12/23) in the Emory River near the plant, which at that time contained high amounts of suspended material following the ash spill, showed that some metals exceeded state requirements for drinking water. These included arsenic, antimony, beryllium, cadmium, chromium, lead, and thallium.
- Later instream testing (12/28 and 12/29) near Kingston power plant showed lower amounts of suspended material and the levels for metals met state requirements for drinking water except for one arsenic sample.
- Recent results (01/01 through 01/05) from other sites sampled on the Clinch and Tennessee River portions of Watts Bar Reservoir show metal contaminants at levels that meet requirements for drinking water or were below detection limits.

Sample results reporting: Initial sampling results have been reported on EPA, TDEC, and TVA websites. Additional results are to be released soon and monitoring will continue.