

**Tom Kilgore**  
**TVA President & Chief Executive Officer**  
**Before the U.S. House Subcommittee on**  
**Water Resources & Environment**  
**July 28, 2009 — Washington, D.C.**

- Chairwoman Johnson, Ranking Member Boozman, and members of the Committee.
- Thank you for the opportunity to update you on TVA's progress in the recovery of the Kingston Fossil Plant ash spill.
- We appreciate the committee's oversight and interest, and appreciated Chairwoman Johnson's visit to Kingston in June.
- We're working hard to rebuild public trust by carrying out our commitment to clean up and restore the site, and we're working to make certain that nothing like this happens again.
- I knew that we needed technical answers to find out why Kingston happened. I also wanted to move quickly for a comprehensive look at our other sites.
- To get the technical answers, we commissioned two internationally recognized and respected engineering firms.
- AECOM was brought in to conduct the root cause analysis of the Kingston spill itself.
- Stantec was commissioned to evaluate the structural integrity of all of TVA's other ash ponds.
- We used two different firms because of the urgency of the situation and the size and scope of the job before each of them.
- As you will hear shortly from Mr. Walton, AECOM's extensive, forensic investigation determined that four long-evolving conditions – some existing since the 1950's – caused the event.
- We've carefully studied AECOM's report, and accepted Mr. Walton's thorough and well-documented assessment.
- As AECOM was conducting its work at Kingston, Stantec was busy at TVA's other sites with their technical evaluation.
- Starting in January, Stantec began to inspect, test and make recommendations on our other facilities. We've worked aggressively over the last six months to implement their recommended changes.
- I also wanted us to take a self-critical approach in looking at the hazard classifications of the storage impoundments.
- Although we do not have any indications that any of these structures are in danger of failing, we have reclassified impoundments at four of our sites as 'high' hazard potential, and we're prioritizing our efforts at those sites.
- In order to fully understand what happened at Kingston, we also needed an analysis of TVA's organization and culture.

- The TVA Board of Directors commissioned an independent investigation to examine and identify possible management and organizational factors that may have contributed to the Kingston spill.
- The independent investigation was led by the international law firm of McKenna Long & Aldridge.
- The MLA investigation, which was presented to the Board and released publicly last week, identified shortcomings and missed opportunities in our organizational effectiveness and accountability.
- At the Board's direction, we're already moving quickly to remedy these shortcomings.
- I have initiated an agency-wide organizational effectiveness plan, focused on culture change, and improving on our systems, controls, standards and accountability.
- I'm pleased that the MLA report recognized that TVA is making significant remedial progress to prevent any future pond spills.
- But I also hear the word of caution that a comprehensive directive to provide assurance of best practices must be sustained across TVA, owned by senior management, and under the Board's oversight.
- Last week, I described the results of the MLA investigation to our employees as tough medicine. It's hard to take, but tough medicine will make us better.
- Today, we have the benefit of the report done by the Office of Inspector General, and Mr. Moore will testify shortly.
- All four reports – AECOM, Stantec, MLA and the Inspector General – will help us address both the technical and cultural issues that contributed to the Kingston spill.
- Importantly, these reports will be our road map going forward both to strengthen the integrity of our facilities and to forge a culture of accountability at TVA.
- Madam Chair, my written testimony submitted to the committee provides details about the significant progress reached in the cleanup and recovery, and the health monitoring initiative for the community.
- While we have much more work to do, with the Chair's permission, I would like to give you some idea of the progress at the site by showing you three before and after photographs.
- On behalf of TVA, I appreciate this committee's attention and oversight.
- Thank you.

#

#

#