

Drinking Water Facts for Kingston Fossil Plant Vicinity

Background

As reported an ash slide occurred on December 22, 2008 at the TVA Kingston Fossil Plant. The bulk of this fly ash consists of inert material not harmful to the environment. Sampling was initiated immediately afterwards to determine if there was a threat to public health. All drinking water samples to date have met drinking water standards. Water samples are routinely tested for toxic metal compounds on both a dissolved and total basis, to account for material suspended in the water, like silt, organic particles, and fly ash.

The public water system is the first line of defense to reduce or eliminate contaminants from untreated river water. The Safe Drinking Water Act regulates these systems and develops standards for drinking water.

Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) continues to sample local drinking water supplies on a daily basis and TVA is continuing untreated river water sampling.

Local Water Treatment Plants Sampling

- All Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), TDEC and TVA water treatment plant sampling results indicate municipal drinking water has been and continues to meet drinking water limits. Water samples have been tested from a total of four local water treatment facilities; Rockwood, Harriman, Cumberland, and Kingston. In addition, untreated river water samples closest to the Kingston Water Treatment Plant have consistently met requirements for primary safe drinking water standards.
- TDEC is sampling the Kingston and Rockwood Water Treatment Plant intakes and treated/finished water. These samples will be taken daily and compared to Safe Drinking Water Act standards.

There are two different types of Safe Drinking Water standards:

Primary standards are health-based requirements.

Secondary standards are based on aesthetic requirements.

Residential Well Sampling:

- Residential well sampling results indicate drinking water continues to meet all safe drinking water limits. In addition to numerous residential wells, local springs have been tested with no results above safe drinking water limits as of January 12, 2009.

Summaries of data to date can be found at:
<http://www.tva.gov/emergency/water/index.htm>.