

Untreated River Water Facts for Kingston Fossil Plant Vicinity

Background

A portion of the ash from the Kingston Fossil plant ash pond slid into the Swan Pond Slough and entered the Emory River. The slough is a small embayment on the Emory River about 2 miles upstream of where it enters the Clinch River. The Clinch River then flows another 4 miles before joining the Tennessee River. TVA and regulatory agencies have been sampling the surface waters (i.e. untreated river water) in the vicinity of the Kingston Fossil site. As of January 10, 2009 TVA has taken approximately 208 samples; the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) has taken more than 70 samples; and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has taken at least 44 samples on the Emory, Clinch, and Tennessee Rivers.

Untreated River Water Sampling

- The nearest public drinking water intake is located on the Tennessee River, one-half mile upstream of where the Clinch River enters the Tennessee River.
- EPA, TDEC, and TVA crews have been conducting independent water sampling and assessing water quality of public drinking water supplies and untreated river water (both near the ash release and multiple downstream locations). All results are being 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.

Untreated River Water Results

- Analysis of EPA and TVA untreated river water samples taken shortly after the release in the Emory River near the Kingston Fossil plant showed that some metals exceeded safe drinking water standards. These included arsenic, antimony, beryllium, cadmium, chromium, lead, and thallium. These metals were present in minute quantities as suspended material in the water column.
- However, later testing (12/26 through 1/6/09) showed lower amounts of suspended materials, and the levels for metals met safe drinking water standards. Heavy rainfall on 1/6/09 re-suspended some ash and several exceedances were observed in the 1/7/09 sampling results.
- Results on 1/9 and 1/12 again showed levels of metals below safe drinking water standards.

Summaries of data to date can be found at:

<http://www.tva.gov/emergency/water/index.htm>.