



STATE OF TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
ENVIRONMENTAL EPIDEMIOLOGY PROGRAM
1ST FLOOR CORDELL HULL BUILDING
425 5TH AVENUE NORTH
NASHVILLE TN 37243

January 13, 2010

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Harriman TN 3 - -

Dear Mr. _____,

The Tennessee Department of Health's (TDH) purpose is to protect the health of people in Tennessee. After the TVA Kingston coal ash release on December 22, 2008, TDH began a series of actions to make sure that people were protected in the short-term and in the long-term. The Public Health Assessment (PHA) was written to determine if people in the community had been or might be exposed in the future to the coal ash and to determine if human contact with the coal ash might result in illness or other harmful health effects. TVA was not involved in or consulted with during the writing of the PHA nor did TVA receive the report before other agencies. The PHA was authored by the Tennessee Department of Health's Environmental Epidemiology Program in partnership with the federal Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR).

On October 30, 2009, an initial draft was provided to government agencies that provided environmental sampling data. The purpose of the initial draft was for fact checking. This is a routine approach to ensure the correct verified and validated data were analyzed. ATSDR provides an initial draft to government agencies as part of its normal protocol for PHAs. The draft was provided to the following agencies that provided us data: the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the TVA, and the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC). The initial draft was also given to the Oak Ridge Associated Universities (ORAU) and the Tennessee Poison Center at Vanderbilt University Medical Center because medical toxicologists at these facilities are conducting health screenings for individuals who are concerned that their health may have been harmed by the coal ash release.

To clearly show the extent of TVA's input into the PHA, we are making public the initial draft report and are providing all petitioners with their own copy. Also, enclosed is a copy of the comments that TVA provided on the initial draft PHA. TVA's comments were minor. As a petitioner, you should have already received the public comment draft report in December. The public comment draft is the more recent second draft of the PHA. This draft is currently undergoing external agency peer review. The peer review comments will be made public once they are received and addressed.

All of our reports and fact sheets about the coal ash release are available on our website at: <http://health.state.tn.us/coalashspill.htm>. As always, feel free to contact us with your questions by email at EEP.Health@tn.gov or by telephone at 1-800-404-3006.

Sincerely,

Ms. Bonnie S. Bashor, MS
Environmental Epidemiology Program Director

LCDR Trent D. LeCoultr, MSEH, REHS
ATSDR Environmental Health Scientist

Enclosures: *Government comment draft PHA initial release TVA Kingston Coal Ash Release
Comments provided by TVA to TDH EEP about the draft PHA*