



N.C. Department of Environment and Natural Resources

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DENR expects water sampling results from river near coal ash spill this week

RALEIGH – The N.C. Department of Environment and Natural Resources expects this week to publicize water sampling results taken from the Dan River near the site of the coal ash spill at the Dan River Steam Station.

“We’re working hard to get all those results back from our state laboratory and analyze them so we can provide the public with useful, timely information about any of the coal ash constituents we’re seeing in the Dan River,” said John Skvarla, secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. “Protecting public health and the environment is our No. 1 priority, and the results will hopefully provide us with meaningful information about any effects we’re seeing to water quality.”

DENR staff created a web page where they will publicize the water sampling results as well as the most recent information about the coal ash spill. You can find the page at the department’s website at <http://portal.ncdenr.org/web/guest/dan-river-spill> or click on the “Dan River spill” tab on the home page. On Tuesday, the first round of water samples taken by scientists with DENR were delivered to a lab in Raleigh for further testing for heavy metals, sulfates, nutrients (nitrogen and phosphorus), and total suspended solids. Here is the list of metals DENR is testing for: potassium, cadmium, chromium, copper, nickel, lead, zinc, vanadium, silver, aluminum, beryllium, calcium, cobalt, iron, molybdenum, antimony, tin, thallium, titanium, lithium, magnesium, manganese, sodium, arsenic, selenium, mercury, barium and boron.

DENR staff members are continuing to conduct water quality sampling in the Dan River upstream and downstream of the spill site.

Duke Energy is also conducting water sampling near the site of the spill.

DENR staff members continued Wednesday to support Duke Energy’s efforts at finding a permanent solution to seal the broken stormwater pipe that released ash to the river. Duke Energy reports that flow of coal ash to the river has significantly decreased since the spill began.

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