

TVA Kingston Ash Recovery Project Regulatory Framework

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On May 11, 2009, the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) entered into an Administrative Order on Consent (AOC) with the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) - Region 4, under the regulatory authority of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA), to address the approximate 5.4 million cubic yards (CY) of coal ash released to the environment on December 22, 2008. The Superfund program was selected as the preferred regulatory framework due to its comprehensive human health and ecological risk assessment process and its proven ability to engage multiple stakeholders in large, complex environmental cleanup projects.

The TVA Kingston Ash Recovery Project was divided into 3 distinct phases using Time Critical and Non Time Critical Removal Action authority to address coal ash that was released to area waters including the Emory River and embayments/sloughs of Watts Bar Reservoir. Time Critical removal (Phase 1) involved wet excavation, mechanical/hydraulic dredging, rapid materials handling and off-site disposal via rail of an estimated 3.3 million cubic yards of ash from the Emory River. Phase 1 ash removal from the Emory River was completed in May 2010, and disposal of approximately 4 million tons of ash at an approved landfill in Perry County, AL was completed in December 2010. Non-Time Critical Removal Actions will be utilized to excavate and place the 2.5 million CY of ash from the embayments/sloughs into a re-constructed cell (Phase 2); and to assess the environmental risks posed to ecological receptors by residual ash in the river system (Phase 3).