



Tennessee Valley Authority
400 West Summit Hill Drive
Knoxville, Tennessee 37902-1499

Peyton T. Hairston, Jr.
Senior Vice President
Corporate Responsibility and Diversity

May 15, 2009

Ms. Sue Sturgis
Institute for Southern Studies
Post Office Box 531
Durham, North Carolina 27702

Dear Ms. Sturgis:

On behalf of the Tennessee Valley Authority, I write to tell you how very concerned I am about your story, "TVA sends spilled coal ash to impoverished black communities in Georgia and Alabama," posted on May 12, 2009, on "Facing South."

TVA was born in 1933, at the height of the Great Depression, charged with building a better way of life for the people in the seven southeastern states we proudly serve. To write that TVA has made decisions on where to transport ash from the Kingston coal spill based on the racial composition of a community is simply wrong. Nor did you offer TVA the courtesy of a response to your assertions.

You are correct that two landfills, one in Alabama and one in Georgia, are currently competing for a disposal contract. The locations are established, permitted and operational landfills. The shipments currently occurring are part of a larger evaluation of disposal sites that will also include other communities in Tennessee that you imply we have discarded as options based on their population.

TVA will make its decisions on ash disposal based on best business and safety practices and, of course, with appropriate regulatory approvals. At no time and in no way would we base a decision on a community's racial composition.

We recognize the gravity of the ash spill that occurred in December of last year, and our highest priority is to work with our regulators and the community of Roane County to clean it up and do the job right, while maintaining the safety and health of our employees and the public.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peyton T. Hairston, Jr.", with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Peyton T. Hairston, Jr.