

Press Release: July 2, 2009
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NEW DATA REVEAL HEAVY METALS IN TENNESSEE WATERWAYS ARE HAZARDOUS FOR HOLIDAY RECREATION

KNOXVILLE, Tenn., July 2 – As of this morning, the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation as well as the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency are withholding crucial data detailing numerous heavy metal concentrations that exceed Domestic Water Supply and Recreation standards. Independent data taken for litigation purposes have been released to the regulatory agencies in hopes that this data will be used to make informed decisions about protecting the citizens of Roane County as well as festival attendees at the July 4th celebration at the Kingston City Park just a few miles downstream from the disaster site. This event draws 24,000 to 27,000 people annually and will surely include significant public contact with the waterways as parts of the festivities include raft races, swimming, and boating.

These new post coal-ash-disaster water samples were taken by qualified consultants using EPA and TDEC sampling methods and were analyzed by a certified laboratory in Tennessee. The sampling area extends from the TVA Kingston Fossil Plant on the Emory River, site of the December 22 coal ash disaster, downstream as far as Mile 545 on the Tennessee River, in Watts Bar Reservoir.

The recreational advisory issued jointly by the EPA, TDEC and TVA on June 17 covers only the lower Emory River from the immediate disaster area down to the confluence of the Emory and Clinch Rivers. That advisory stated that, "Water-based recreation on the Clinch and Tennessee Rivers should not be impacted this season and can continue. It is safe to swim, boat and eat most kinds of fish." However, this new data show concentrations of many heavy metals in excess of TDEC Domestic Water Supply standards, much further downstream than stated in the advisory.

The June 3 independent samples taken at Kingston State Park exceeded TDEC Domestic Water Supply Standards and Recreation Standards for antimony, thallium, mercury, barium and nickel. Heavy metal contamination was found to extend for miles downstream from the TVA Kingston Fossil Plant, including high levels of arsenic, lead and mercury 27 miles into the Watts Bar Reservoir. Hazardous concentrations of toxic heavy metals were found at sites along the Emory, Clinch, and Tennessee Rivers, as recently as May and June.

For information on the potential impacts of heavy metals, visit the website of the Agency for Toxic Substances & Disease Registry: <http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/index.html>

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About United Mountain Defense

United Mountain Defense (UMD) is a Knoxville-based non-profit dedicated to protecting Tennessee's watersheds, air, mountains and communities. We have many years of experience working on issues relating to surface mining and its impacts on communities. A primary focus of UMD has been in scientific data collection, community organizing, and data collection and analysis from federal and state agencies. www.unitedmountaindefense.org/

Selected transcribed portions of scanned PDF (please find attached):

From Gary A. Davis & Associates

Sent to EPA and TDEC, June 30 2009

"Re: *Water Sample Results for Metals Downstream of TVA Kingston Coal Ash Sludge Release*

Dear Mr. Francendese and Mr. Sloan:

Recently I received post-coal-ash-disaster water sampling results for samples taken since January 2009 in the ash release area and downstream as far as Tennessee River (Watts Bar Reservoir) Mile 545. The results are enclosed. These samples were taken by qualified consultants using EPA and TDEC sampling methods, and analyzed by a certified laboratory in Tennessee. The results are compared to Tennessee Water

Quality Standards as shown in the spreadsheet and as discussed in the attached Interpretation of Results. We can provide the laboratory results sheets if requested.

Although these samples have been taken for litigation purposes, we believe that the agencies with the responsibility to protect public health and the environment should have the results in order to make informed decisions about protecting downstream water users, particularly given the upcoming July 4th weekend, which will surely include significant public contact with the waterways as part of the holiday festivities and recreation."

Enclosure:

Globally Green Consulting
Environmental Consulting

Public Water Results Table
Interpretation of Results

Metals that exceed one or more TDEC criterion through June 3, 2009 sampling event:

1. Antimony

- Exceeded criteria for Domestic Water Supply and/or Recreation - Water and Organisms.
- Most downstream location: Kingston City Park, Downtown Dock, Clinch River, River Mile (RM) 1. Approximately six (6) miles downstream from the spill.

2. Arsenic

- Exceeded criteria for Domestic Water Supply, Recreation -- Water and Organisms, and/or Recreation - Organisms.
- Most downstream location: Cove in Watts Bar, Tennessee River RM 548.2. Approximately 27 miles downstream from the spill.

3. Barium

- Exceeded criterion for Domestic Water Supply
- Most downstream location: Cove in Watts Bar, Tennessee River RM 567.5. Approximately 7.5 miles downstream from the spill.

4. Beryllium

- Exceeded criterion for Domestic Water Supply
- Most downstream location: Cove in Watts Bar, Tennessee River RM 567.5. Approximately 7.5 miles downstream from the spill.

5. Cadmium

- Exceeded criteria for Domestic Water Supply and/or Fish and Aquatic Life (chronic).
- Most downstream location: Highway 70 Bridge, Clinch River RM 2.2. Approximately 5 miles downstream from the spill.

6. Chromium

- Exceeded criterion for Domestic Water Supply
- Most downstream location: Shoreline, Emory River RM 2.2. Approximately 0.5 mile downstream from the spill.

7. Lead

- Exceeded criterion for Domestic Water Supply
- Most downstream location: Cove in Watts Bar, Tennessee River RM 548.2. Approximately 27 miles downstream from the spill.

8. Mercury

- Exceeded criteria for Recreation -- Water and Organisms and Recreation -- Organisms.
- Most downstream location: Boat ramp cove, Watts Bar, Tennessee River RM 558. Approximately 17 miles downstream from the spill.

9. Nickel

- Exceeded criterion for Domestic Water Supply
- Most downstream location: Kingston City Park, Downtown Dock, Clinch River RM 1. Approximately six (6) miles downstream from the spill.

10. Selenium

- Exceeded criterion for Fish and Aquatic Life (acute and chronic).
- Most downstream location: Kingston City Park, Downtown Dock, Clinch River RM 1. Approximately six (6) miles downstream from the spill.

11. Thallium

- Exceeded criteria for Domestic Water Supply, Recreation -- Water and Organisms, and/or Recreation -- Organisms.
- Most downstream location: Cove in Watts Bar, Tennessee River RM 567.5. Approximately 7.5 miles downstream from the spill.