For clarification, this report covers the Asheville impoundment and Mayo impoundment owned by Progress Energy.

From: Davis, Tracy
Sent: Tuesday, June 30, 2009 3:33 PM
To: Boyer, Janet; Simons, Jim
Cc: Nevils, Mell; McEvoy, Steve
Subject: FW: Follow Up to EPA Inspections of Coal Ash Impoundments

Thanks for the report, Janet. This should be enough for now.

Jim, FYI...

From: Boyer, Janet
Sent: Tuesday, June 30, 2009 3:25 PM
To: Davis, Tracy
Subject: RE: Follow Up to EPA Inspections of Coal Ash Impoundments

Tracy,

I attended the inspections of both Progress Energy dams in Asheville on May 29. The contractor did not note in significant problems on either dam. He recommended having the mowers make horizontal rather than vertical passes on the downstream slope to avoid having the tire tracks create an opportunity for rills to develop. One rodent hole was noted. He was pleased with the overall condition and maintenance of the dams. I asked to be included on the email reports, but have not received anything. I will be happy to contact Progress and request that information if you need.

Janet

Janet S. Boyer, P.E. - Janet.Boyer@ncdenr.gov
North Carolina Dept. of Environment and Natural Resources
Asheville Regional Office
Division of Land Resources - Land Quality Section
2090 U.S. 70 Highway
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Notice: E-mail correspondence to and from this address may be subject to the North Carolina Public Records Law and therefore may be disclosed to third parties.

From: Davis, Tracy
Sent: Tuesday, June 30, 2009 9:43 AM
To: Boyer, Janet; Khan, Zahid; Poling, Matt; Leonard, Shannon; Holley, John; Cook, Steve; Sams, Dan; Mcclain, Pat; Gantt, Matt; Simons, Jim; Nevils, Mell; McEvoy, Steve; Denton, Bill; Hawkins, Hubert; Idol, Tami
Cc: Gantt, Matt; Simons, Jim; Nevils, Mell; McEvoy, Steve; Denton, Bill; Hawkins, Hubert; Idol, Tami
Subject: Follow Up to EPA Inspections of Coal Ash Impoundments
Importance: High
Can you give us a heads up on how the EPA and consultant inspections of the coal ash impoundments in your regions went? An email or inspection reports/memos outlining any issues or concerns with the embankments would be appreciated. There is a lot of recent press out on this issue and we will likely be getting some calls (as our program is referenced in the following article).

Please provide what you can as soon as possible.

Thanks. Tracy

From: Simons, Jim
Sent: Tuesday, June 30, 2009 8:46 AM
To: Davis, Tracy
Cc: Nevils, Mell; McEvoy, Steve
Subject: FW: 10 Duke ash basins on hazard list - Charlotte

Tracy,

I would like to know how it went with the coal ash inspections with EPA. E-mail, phone call or inspection report - whatever.

Thanks,
Jim

From: Kees, Diana
Sent: Tuesday, June 30, 2009 8:25 AM
To: Biser, Elizabeth; Freeman, Dee; Hardy, Cathy; Kees, Diana; Knight, David; Kritzer, Jamie; Smith, Robin; Taylor, Kenneth; Thompson, Mary; Wall, Steve; Wilder, Manly; Nevils, Mell; Simons, Jim; Keith Overcash (keith.overcash@ncmail.net); Mather, Tom; sheila.holman@ncmail.net; chuck.wakild@ncmail.net; coleen.sullins@ncmail.net; Cathy Akroyd (Cathy.Akroyd@ncmail.net); dexter.matthews@ncmail.net; linda.culpepper@ncmail.net
Subject: 10 Duke ash basins on hazard list - Charlotte

10 Duke ash basins on hazard list

No imminent instability was found, but location of coal waste storage raises risk to life if dams were to collapse.

By Bruce Henderson
bhenderson@charlotteobserver.com
Posted: Tuesday, Jun. 30, 2009

More Information

- Duke Energy's
  - Allen Steam Station, Belmont
  - Belews Creek Steam Station, Walnut Cove
  - Buck Steam Station (three), Spencer
  - Dan River Steam Station (two), Eden
Marshall Steam Station, Terrell
Riverbend Steam Station (two), Mount Holly

Ten Duke Energy coal ash basins, including four near Charlotte, are among 44 “high hazard potential” impoundments nationwide, federal enforcers said Monday.

The basins, where electric utilities dump power-plant residues, have come under intense scrutiny since a Tennessee Valley Authority basin in Kingston, Tenn., failed in December. The collapse released 5.4 million cubic yards of contaminated sludge.

The Environmental Protection Agency, responding to public pressure, identified 427 ash basins at power plants. Those rated “high hazard” aren't in danger of failing but, because of their locations, could kill someone if they did collapse.

Among them are Duke's Allen and Riverbend coal-fired power plants on the Catawba River in Gaston County and Marshall plant on Lake Norman in Catawba County. Two more are at Progress Energy's Asheville plant.

Duke's eight Carolinas coal-fired plants produce 2.2 million tons of ash a year, piping two-thirds of it into landfills and ponds. The ash is laden with metals that in high concentrations can cause cancer and other health problems.

EPA said it has conducted on-site inspections of some of the high-hazard basins and will review others that have been inspected by state officials in the past 12 months. The agency said it will make inspection results public when they're completed.

Duke spokesman Jason Walls said the utility has completed, or will soon complete, all recommendations that N.C. dam-safety officials made after their most recent inspections. EPA has not asked Duke to take any action, he said.

The N.C. Utilities Commission, which regulates Duke, requires safety inspections of coal-ash basins every five years. Duke has said it voluntarily does annual inspections.

The Observer's review of state records in December found no reports of imminent instability at Duke's dams. But the records showed “potentially serious” seepage in 2007 at its Dan River plant near the Virginia line. “Major distress” was reported after a 2005 storm that overtopped a dike at the Cliffside plant 60 miles west of Charlotte.

EPA has not provided the Observer with information it sought this spring on Duke's responses to the agency.

“This is critical information for the communities that live near these facilities who now know there is a substantial threat nearby,” attorney Lisa Evans, of the Oakland, Calif., environmental law firm Earthjustice, said in a statement. “The next step is for EPA to regulate coal ash as hazardous waste and guarantee protections for these local communities.”

Please note: my e-mail address has changed to diana.kees@ncdenr.gov.

E-mail correspondence to and from this address may be subject to the
North Carolina Public Records Law and may be disclosed to third parties.