

Frequently Asked Questions for water well testing near Duke Energy coal ash storage impoundments

Will I be contacted about when my well will be tested? Do I need to be home?

A representative from the selected laboratory will contact you to work out details of the testing procedure. If your wellhead is easily accessible it may not be necessary for you to be at home when the testing is done.

I recently filled out a postcard for Duke asking if I have a well. Why do I need to do that again?

The two postcards are for different purposes. A response to the enclosed postcard is needed in order to identify which laboratory will test your well and to facilitate scheduling the test.

What is my well being tested for?

Wells will be sampled and tested for a number of metals and other constituents that may be naturally occurring but are also associated with coal burning activities. Those are: aluminum, antimony, arsenic, barium, beryllium, boron, cadmium, calcium, cobalt, total chromium, hexavalent chromium, copper, iron, lead, magnesium, manganese, molybdenum, mercury, nickel, potassium, selenium, sodium, strontium, thallium, vanadium, zinc, chloride, sulfate, alkalinity, bicarbonate, carbonate, total dissolved solids, total suspended solids and turbidity. Field tests will be done for: pH, temperature, specific conductance, dissolved oxygen, oxidation reduction potential and the well water level, if possible. The groundwater standards can be found on the Division of Water Resources website at:

<http://goo.gl/NUZRLI>

That is a long list. Can I assume my water is safe if the tests come back clean?

We are testing for constituents associated with coal ash contamination. However, this is not a comprehensive test of your well water. To learn more about having your private well tested, go to TestYourWell.nc.gov, a website provided by the N.C. Department of Health and Human Services.

If my well water shows exceedances of groundwater standards for one or more of the constituents listed above, what then?

Test results will be sent to the NC Department of Health and Human Services Division of Public Health. They will conduct a health risk evaluation of the well sampling results to determine if the water is safe for drinking, bathing and other uses. The results of the sampling and the evaluation from the Division of Public Health will be sent to the well owner along with a letter from the Division of Water Resources discussing possible next steps based on information particular to your well.

What if I miss my 15 day window but still want my well tested?

If you miss the deadline and still want your well tested, please call the Division of Water Resources at 919-807-6464 and ask to speak with someone about drinking water well testing near Duke Energy coal ash facilities.

Will my well test results be available as public information?

All testing that is conducted during this investigation is considered public information.

I want to know more about the state's regulatory process as it moves forward. Where is the best place to find information?

The Division of Water Resources has a website that focuses on our regulation of Duke Energy's coal-ash facilities. It contains links to drinking water testing, groundwater testing, federal and state permitting and other coal-ash related information. It is updated regularly as additional information and reports are submitted. You can find it at: <http://goo.gl/NUZRLI>.

For further questions, visit our web page at: <http://goo.gl/NUZRLI> or contact DWR at:

Email: CA.water.test@ncdenr.gov

Mail: Drinking Water Well Testing, Division of Water Resources, 1636 MSC, Raleigh, NC, 27709-1636

Phone: 919-807-6464