



Recreational Advisory for Watts Bar Reservoir

June 2009

The Environmental Protection Agency, the Tennessee Department of Health, the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation and Tennessee Valley Authority are issuing an advisory regarding boating, swimming and fishing on Watts Bar Reservoir.

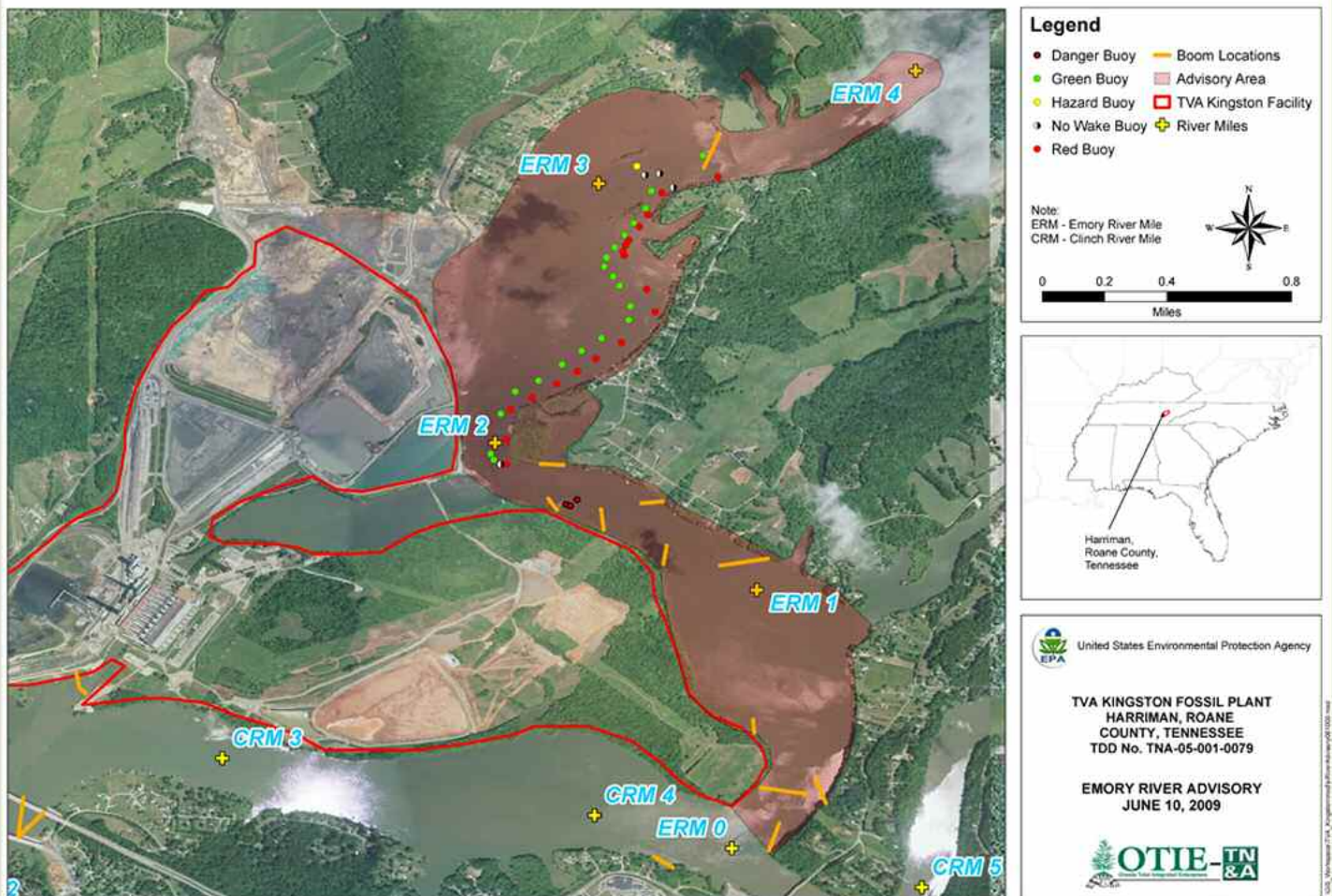
Emory River Section

The public is cautioned to avoid recreational use of the lower Emory River in the vicinity of the ash release down to the confluence of the Emory and Clinch Rivers, which includes adjacent coves, inlets, islands, and sand bars. Small vessel traffic is currently channeled through a well-marked navigational lane, but swimming, jet skiing; water skiing and tubing are not advised at this time in these areas. In addition to construction related risks, contact with submerged or floating ash should be avoided, and if ash is contacted it should be washed off with soap and water. Chronic exposure by incidental ingestion and inhalation should also be avoided.

Clinch River and Tennessee River Sections

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. See TDEC's Web site at www.tn.gov/environment/wpc/publications for more information about already existing fish consumption advisories.

EPA's advisory map can be found at www.epakingstontva.com. If you require further information or instructions regarding recreational use of Watts Bar Reservoir, please contact EPA Community Involvement Coordinator, Stephanie Y. Brown at 1-800-564-7577 or 678-575-8505. An additional point of contact is the Roane County Health Department who can be reached at 865-354-1220.



Recognizing Coal Ash in Recreational Waters

It is possible for weather or dredging activities to move ash further downstream at times, and people continue to be advised to avoid coal ash if they see it in the water. Ash in the water is gray in color, as opposed to normal sediments, which are a brown color.



Coal ash particles in water have a gray color



Normal sediments in water have a brown color

Contacting Coal Ash

If you contact coal ash in the river, move away from it. Moving to cleaner water will likely get much of the coal ash off your skin. Get out of the water and rinse off using clean water from a restroom, hose or water bottle. Washing with soap and water is preferable. You may need to wash clothes, shoes and pets as well. Skin contact with coal ash can cause irritation similar to contact with beach sand. Inadvertently ingesting some coal ash while swimming on an occasional basis does not pose a significant health risk.

Floating Ash Particles

Coal ash sinks, but an element of the ash, called cenospheres, float and move with the wind and currents on the surface of the water. They can gather in areas with floating garbage, pollen and driftwood. People should avoid areas where there is a collection of cenospheres and/or floating debris.



Avoid white-colored cenospheres that can collect with garbage, driftwood and other debris.

Useful Web Sites & Telephone Numbers

EPA: www.epakingstontva.com
TDEC: www.tn.gov/environment/kingston
TVA: www.tva.gov
TDH: www.tn.gov/health
TWRA: www.tn.gov/twra

EPA public information:
800-564-7577

TVA Outreach Office:
865-632-1700

TDEC:
888-891-8332

Roane County Health Dept:
865-354-1220