



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4204

February 3, 2009

Mr. Tom Kilgore
Chief Executive Officer
Tennessee Valley Authority
400 W. Summit Hill Dr.
Knoxville, TN 37902-1499

Dear Mr. Kilgore,

Earlier this month, I became aware of a situation regarding your request to dredge the Emory River and a concern about how this process could cause dangerous particles buried in the riverbed to re-enter the water system. It was a great relief to hear that the Watts-Bar Interagency Working Group found it appropriate to approve your request to dredge, and that this will pose no additional threat to nearby residents.

However, I was dismayed to hear of this potential obstacle so long after the cleanup had already begun. The deposits that caused concern for this project derived from World War Two era work at Oak Ridge, and there is an understanding that officials have been aware of this potential disruption for some time. This leads me to believe that TVA officials kept this to themselves throughout the cleanup process, and so I am left to wonder if they may be aware of future obstacles unforeseen to the general public.

As you well know, it has now been over a month since the fly-ash spill at TVA's Kingston facility. I have on numerous occasions met with families and individuals affected by this accident, many of whom are in no better shape today than they were when the accident first occurred. They, along with many of my constituents who drink from surrounding water supplies, are increasingly concerned that they do not have all the facts surrounding the future of the cleanup. In light of recent events, so am I.

There is no question that news of potential contamination reinvigorated the fears of thousands of your customers. Moving forward, I would ask that you put all information on the table. Keep Tennessee, Roane County and the appropriate offices informed of TVA's plans to make this right. Perhaps more importantly, let us know now of reasonably foreseeable problems that could put Tennesseans at further risk.

So far, TVA has put forward a commendable effort in giving up-to-the-minute information on what has occurred. What I would ask is that you help to keep us abreast

of what may occur, in addition to what has occurred, so as to temper the fears of people who discover alarming developments when they sit down to read the local paper.

The people of Tennessee's Fourth District, including those directly affected by the Kingston site spill, are reasonable and have dealt with this disaster with an even-handed approach. They deserve to be informed as you would inform any stakeholder, not kept in the dark and left to gather details from news reports. Families need to be able to plan for any additional inconvenience, and TVA needs to start work immediately to reclaim the trust of the people it serves. I would ask only that you stay in touch with me and with your customers, and keep us abreast of any obstacles you can reasonably predict.

Thank you for your promise and your commitment to restore the lives and property of the families this disaster affects. If I can be helpful in any way, please do not hesitate to call.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Lincoln Davis", is written over the typed name and title.

Lincoln Davis
Member of Congress