

Frequently Asked Questions on Coal Ash Ponds

Progress Energy
2010

How does Progress Energy manage coal ash?

Progress Energy uses a comprehensive ash-management program that includes the beneficial reuse of ash and long-term storage, such as ash ponds and dry-storage facilities. All of Progress Energy's coal-fired power plants in the Carolinas have active ash ponds. The sizes of the storage facilities vary greatly with each individual site and all are regulated by N.C. Department of Environment and Natural Resources or the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control. These systems use various types of dams and dikes to safely store the ash.

Are Progress Energy's ash ponds regulated?

Yes. All current and former ash ponds operate under permits issued by the N.C. Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) or the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC). These ponds are regulated by these agencies and are monitored regularly.

In addition, all coal plant dams are under the jurisdiction of the N.C. Dam Safety Program.

Does Progress Energy inspect its ash pond dams?

Yes. Each ash pond dam is a part of Progress Energy's rigorous inspection process to ensure its structural integrity. All of our ash ponds have been inspected within the last 12 months and deemed structurally sound.

- *Monthly Inspections.* Trained Progress Energy employees conduct monthly inspections of each dam. They follow a strict procedure that includes visual inspections and data gathering.
- *Annual Inspections:* An independent engineering firm conducts an annual inspection of each dam and reviews the data collected during the monthly inspections.
- *Five-Year Inspections:* An independent engineering firm conducts an extensive inspection and review of each dam and its operating parameters every five years. The results of these inspections are provided to the North Carolina Utilities Commission.

What does a "High Hazard" dam mean?

The Hazard Potential Classification is a geotechnical engineering rating based on location of the dam and the potential consequences of a breach. It is not an indication of the current status of the dam nor the probability of a breach occurring. To be classified as "high hazard" there must be the possibility that a breach would cause the loss of at least one human life.

According to the National Inventory of Dams, North Carolina has 2,894 dams and 1,062 of them are classified as "high hazard."

Which ponds are "High Hazard" and why?

The only ash pond dams owned by Progress Energy that are classified as high hazard are two dams at the Asheville Plant. These are classified this way due to the proximity of the ponds to Interstate 26 and a bridge over the French Broad River, which raises the probability of losing at least one human life if a breach occurred. There are 32 total "high hazard" dams in Buncombe County, where the Asheville Plant is located.

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