

Statement on EPA inspection of Cape Fear ash impoundments

Progress Energy
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The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recently sent representatives to inspect selected ash ponds at coal-fired power plants around the country, including the active and inactive ash impoundments at Progress Energy Carolinas' Asheville, Mayo and Cape Fear plants. On Sept. 15, we received the final inspection reports from the EPA. **The reports confirmed that our active ash ponds are structurally sound**, although that might not be apparent given the EPA contract inspector's ratings for our Cape Fear ponds.

The EPA contract inspectors gave the two active and three inactive ponds at Cape Fear (located near Moncure, N.C.) a rating of "poor" based on the contract inspector's desire to see additional documentation and several recommendations for vegetation management and minor erosion control. It is important to note that according to the EPA [news release](#), "none of the units assessed received an 'unsatisfactory' rating. Only impoundments rated as unsatisfactory pose immediate safety threats."

We take the reports seriously. We have agreed to complete all recommendations for the active ponds at the Cape Fear Plant. We have also agreed to work with the N.C. Dam Safety Program to evaluate all the recommendations for the inactive ponds at the Cape Fear Plant. The inactive ponds have not received wet ash for decades and most are now covered with native vegetation.

We maintain a robust inspection program that exceeds both federal and state guidelines and includes annual and 5-year inspections conducted by a third-party engineering consultant. In addition, we conducted a thorough review of all our ash impoundments shortly after the Tennessee Valley Authority's Kingston Plant ash pond accident in December 2008. All of these reviews confirmed that our active ponds are stable.

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