



ROANE COUNTY OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES

200 East Race St Suite 18

PO Box 1196

Kingston, TN 37763

Office (865)717-4115

Fax (865)717-0615

Response Synopsis:

At 0040 on December 22nd, 2008 the Roane County Emergency Communication Center received the first 911 call reporting a large mud slide that had collapsed houses and trapped occupants. Various emergency agencies including the Roane County office of Emergency Services were dispatched to the location. Roane County Sheriff's Office units, while en-route encountered a large wall of earth obstructing Swan Pond Road adjacent to the north entrance to the Kingston Fossil Plant. The Sheriff's Office units advised all responding units that there had appeared to have been a failure of the ash pond dike that runs parallel to Swan Pond Road and that all other responding units should use the alternate entrance of Swan Pond Circle. First arriving emergency responders arrived in the 100 block of Swan Pond Circle Road; there the road became impassable due to debris from the ash slide. Emergency responders arrived near the first effected residential structure at 0106. An incident command post was established near 175 Swan Pond Circle Road. Initial rescue crews were sent to the Schean residence where one adult male was found extricating himself from a partially collapsed home. Mr. Schean was not injured and did not request EMS treatment. The initial scene assessment revealed Swan Pond, Swan Pond Circle, and the railway into TVA Kingston Fossil Plant were impassable due to debris. Notification to Norfolk Southern dispatch advising them of the situation was made at 0217. Emergency response crews began a door to door search of all residential structures in the area. Homes along the lake shore were evacuated due to fears of secondary slide and the potential of ruptured gas lines in the area. One additional home that had sustained damage was found to be occupied. One adult female; Mrs. James was taken to a nearby neighbors home. At 0349 the Roane County Emergency Operations Center was activated as well as a shelter at Roane State Community College was opened for evacuees. Roane County utilized its emergency notification system to contact all residents in the affected area to inform them of the event at 0352. The Roane County Basic Emergency Operations Plan was activated bring on line all emergency assets of Roane County. Myself and County Executive Mike Farmer established contact with TVA at the Kingston Fossil Plant at approximately 0445 am. TVA personnel advised us that they were in the process of assessing the ash pond and mobilizing the emergency resources at that time. A final search of the area was completed at 456am and all emergency personnel were ordered out of the area and to stage at Swan Pond and Swan Pond Circle at 0625. At 0636 the Roane County Emergency Communication Center received a 911 call from Norfolk Southern Railroad stating that their train heading to the Kingston Fossil Plant had derailed. Upon our arrival with TVA Police at Swan Pond Road and Swan Pond Circle communications was established with a Norfolk Southern representative that advised us there were no injuries and that the train had impacted the slide area resulting in an emergency stop from the train crew. The train had not derailed and was stuck in the debris. After returning all emergency units to service following the response to the 911 call concerning the train all



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emergency response units were moved to the Kingston Fossil Plant for staging at 0734. Unified command was established between Roane County and TVA Kingston Fossil Plant at 0742. Local utility crews were sent into the area to conduct damage assessment of critical infrastructure at 0750. Harriman Utility Board reported a ruptured gas, water, and sewer lines as well as numerous electrical lines down at 0804. Roane County Office of Emergency Services terminated the emergency response phase at 0930 and initiated recovery operations at that time.

Recovery Operations:

The Roane County Building Official and damage assessment teams began assessment of residential properties at 1000. The Roane County Building Official reported 3 homes with significant structural damage that would require the residential structures need be condemned due to structural stability issues. These were the only 3 residential structures found to have damage. Further damage assessment revealed 42 pieces of personal property that had some sort of damage to docks or other ancillary structures. Utility crews reported that immediately following the event there were approximately 60 homes with interrupted electrical power, 55 homes with interrupted gas service, and 37 homes with interrupted water services. TVA entered in various contracts with local service providers to rapidly restore critical utility services immediately following the event. All utility repairs were completed on December 31, 2008. The Roane County Highway Department after performing a damage assessment of Swan Pond Rd and Swan Pond Circle Rd identified that there was enough debris covering those roads that the Highway Department lacked sufficient equipment and personnel to accomplish debris removal operations alone. The TVA was requested to assist by providing heavy equipment and personnel to begin debris removal. Debris removal began on December 23 and is ongoing. Roane County's Office of Emergency Services continues recovery operations within a Unified Command System collocated with TVA, State of Tennessee, and EPA organizations at the TVA Kingston Fossil Plant.



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Environmental:

Roane County recognized that this event presented several complex environmental issues for the residents of Roane County. We recognized the need for both long and short term environmental monitoring is performed. Roane County does not have an environmental monitoring capability at the level needed for this recovery operation, therefore Roane County made a request of the State of Tennessee for air, surface water, ground water, and soil sampling to determine if any environmental effects from the ash spill exist now or in the future. Many unanswered questions about the environmental impact of this event still exist. It will take many months before we are able to fully characterize this event as it pertains to its impact on the environment and health of the area, therefore Roane County has requested from the State of Tennessee that an interagency oversight group consisting of state and local organizations be created for monitoring the recovery efforts.

After Action Review:

On January 5th, 2009 an after action review of events following the response to the dike failure at the TVA Kingston Fossil Plant was held with local emergency response organizations. Several issues were identified that need addressed as corrective actions for future emergency preparedness activities.

- **Challenge**-Immediately following the event it was difficult to form a cohesive Unified Command with TVA due to the fact TVA was not using the Incident Command System as defined by the National Incident Management System.
- **Corrective Action**- TVA, like all federal, state, and local agencies should adopt, train, exercise, and conduct emergency response operations utilizing the Incident Command System as defined by the National Incident Management System
- **Challenge**- There does not exist for the TVA Fossil Power Division the same stringent emergency preparedness and planning program as does for TVA's nuclear and hydroelectric facilities.
- **Corrective Action**- TVA should implement system wide a rigorous and comprehensive emergency preparedness program that incorporates all aspects of emergency management: preparedness, response, recovery, and hazard mitigation
- **Challenge**- A comprehensive hazard analysis and risk assessment had not be performed at the TVA Kingston Fossil Plant



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- **Corrective Action-** TVA should conduct and make available to the local community a comprehensive hazard analysis and risk assessment for all TVA owned and operated facilities.

Closing Comments:

The event of December 22nd has changed the face of Roane County. I count it a blessing that lives were not lost and that physical injuries were sustained. On behalf of Roane County I want to thank all the local, state, and federal organizations that have helped and will continue to help us deal with this event. I want to thank TVA for their response in repairing critical county infrastructure. I am pleased to say that as of today I feel that TVA has brought its entire cadre of resources to bear on this event. Many challenges both environmental and economic exist now and many more will arise in the coming days and months. In closing, I want to say as a lifelong resident of Roane County that I have faith in the people of Roane County and I know them to be relentless when faced with a challenge. I know that given the opportunity they will rise to the occasion and create many solutions to the challenges that lie ahead.

Respectfully,

William Howard Rose Jr.

Director

Roane County Office of Emergency Services



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