

TVA: Another spill, but water meets standards

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STEVENSON, AL — The Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) has reported that a January 9 coal-waste spill into the Widows Creek from its Widows Creek steam plant near Bridgeport in northeast Alabama has not produced heavy metals above drinking water standards in samples taken from the Tennessee River downstream from the spill, according to a January 12 Associated Press (AP) [report](#).

The nation's largest public utility reported that tests show slightly elevated levels of contaminants such as the metals aluminum, arsenic, magnesium and sulfate downstream from the spill. The TVA said the amounts meet federal standards for drinking water.

TVA said the gypsum material that spilled into Widows Creek, which flows into the Tennessee River, is piped to a pond on site from the plant's smokestacks, *The Huntsville Times* [reported](#) on January 11.

TVA and the US Environmental Protection Agency are continuing to sample the water independently.

In December, more than 1 billion gallons of coal ash leaked from a TVA plant in northeast Tennessee, impacting the surface water and destroying homes, as *WaterTech Online*® [reported](#).