

Media Advisory
Southern Environmental Law Center

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**Upcoming Federal Coal Ash Trial
Tennessee Valley Authority's Coal Ash Pollution at Gallatin Fossil Plant
Tennessee Clean Water Network et. al. v. TVA**

Nashville, TN – A trial alleging federal Clean Water Act violations against the Tennessee Valley Authority is scheduled to begin Monday January 30, 2017 in Nashville. The Southern Environment Law Center is representing the Tennessee Scenic Rivers Association, which together with Tennessee Clean Water Network, is suing the Tennessee Valley Authority over allegations that coal ash from its Gallatin Fossil Plant is polluting the Cumberland River.

WHEN: Monday January 30, 2017, 9am – Thursday February 2, 2017

WHERE: U. S. District Court for the Middle District of Tennessee
[801 Broadway, Nashville TN 37201](#)

CASE No: 3:15-cv-00424

JUDGE: The Honorable Waverly Crenshaw

COURT POLICIES: Cell phones are permitted but must be on silent/off. No photography or recording is permitted in the courtroom.

Gallatin Plant Lawsuit Fact Sheet

- This lawsuit alleges that the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) is polluting the Cumberland River through the unlawful discharge of toxic pollutants contained in coal ash from its Gallatin Plant and is therefore in violation of the Clean Water Act.
- For nearly 60 years TVA has dumped coal ash in the cheapest and dirtiest way possible by discarding it in unlined pits covering over 500 acres on the banks of the Cumberland River and Old Hickory Lake, less than 5 miles upstream from the Boxwell Boy Scout Reservation and approximately 1.5 miles upstream from the City of Gallatin drinking water intake.
 - TVA's plant is composed of multiple unlined, leaking coal ash pits that contain more than **2.5 billion gallons of coal waste** and other waste from its plant.
 - TVA's Gallatin Plant is riddled with sinkholes. In fact, there were so many sinkholes present when the ash ponds were built in the 1970s that for about 8 years they did not hold waste water. During that time, more than 27 billion gallons of coal ash waste leaked into the groundwater and Cumberland River.
 - More than **1 million people** who rely on the Cumberland River for drinking water and outdoor activity live downstream from TVA's coal ash pollution in the river.
- Among the numerous toxic substances dumped by TVA's Gallatin plant into the Cumberland River are: chromium, arsenic, lead, aluminum, boron, iron, sulfate, selenium, and manganese.
- The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has deemed these ponds as a "significant hazard" threatening drinking water supplies and the surrounding environment.

More than eight years have passed since TVA's Kingston Plant spill of 1.1 billion gallons of coal ash slurry into the Emory and Clinch rivers, covering 300 acres of land – the largest reported coal ash spill in the history of the United States.

Moving coal ash to dry, lined storage and getting it out of the groundwater is a known solution to stopping continuous pollution and eliminating the risk of another catastrophic failure, such as the one that occurred at TVA's Kingston Plant.