

DAN RIVER COAL ASH SPILL

DRAFT RESTORATION PLAN AND ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Presentation to the Community by the
Dan River Coal Ash Spill Natural Resource Trustee Council

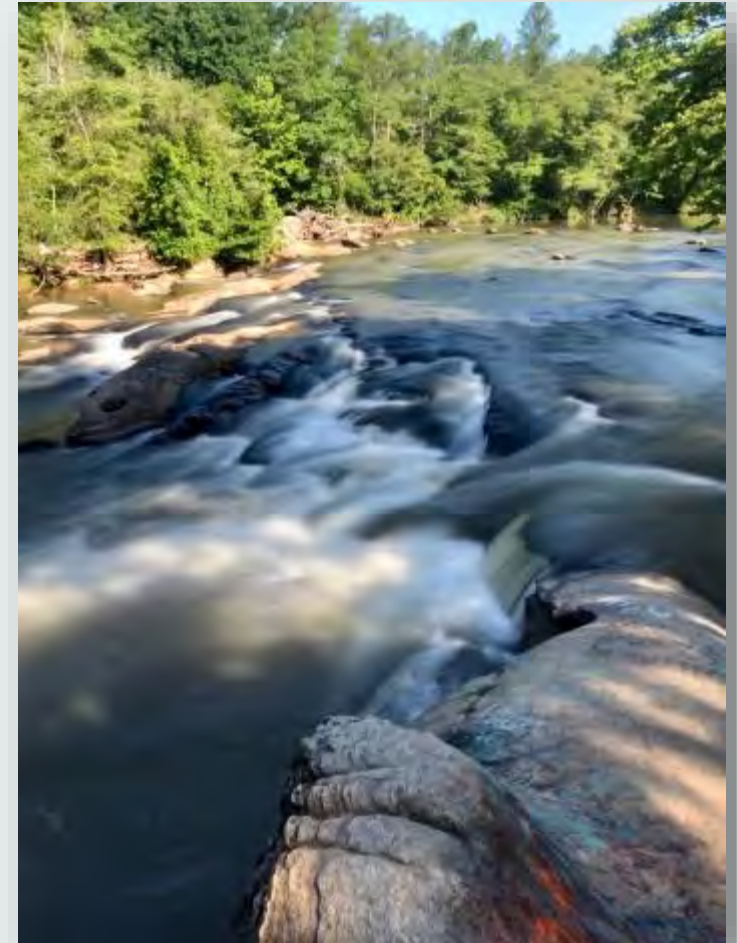
August 6, 2019 – Danville, Virginia
August 7, 2019 – Eden, North Carolina



Natural
Resource
Damage
Assessment
and
Restoration

PRESENTATION OVERVIEW

- Introductions
- Overview of Natural Resource Damage
Assessment and Restoration (NRDAR)
- Overview of Dan River Coal Ash Spill NRDAR Case
- Proposed Restoration Projects, Public
Involvement and Next Steps



Credit: Piedmont Land Conservancy

THE TRUSTEES

- Are authorized by law to act on behalf of the public to restore resources and services injured by a release of hazardous substances
- Conduct NRDAR process

DAN RIVER NATURAL RESOURCE TRUSTEES



US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)



NC Department of Environmental Quality (NCDEQ)



VA Department of Environmental Quality (VDEQ)

DAN RIVER TRUSTEE ADVISORS



NC Wildlife Resources Commission (NCWRC)

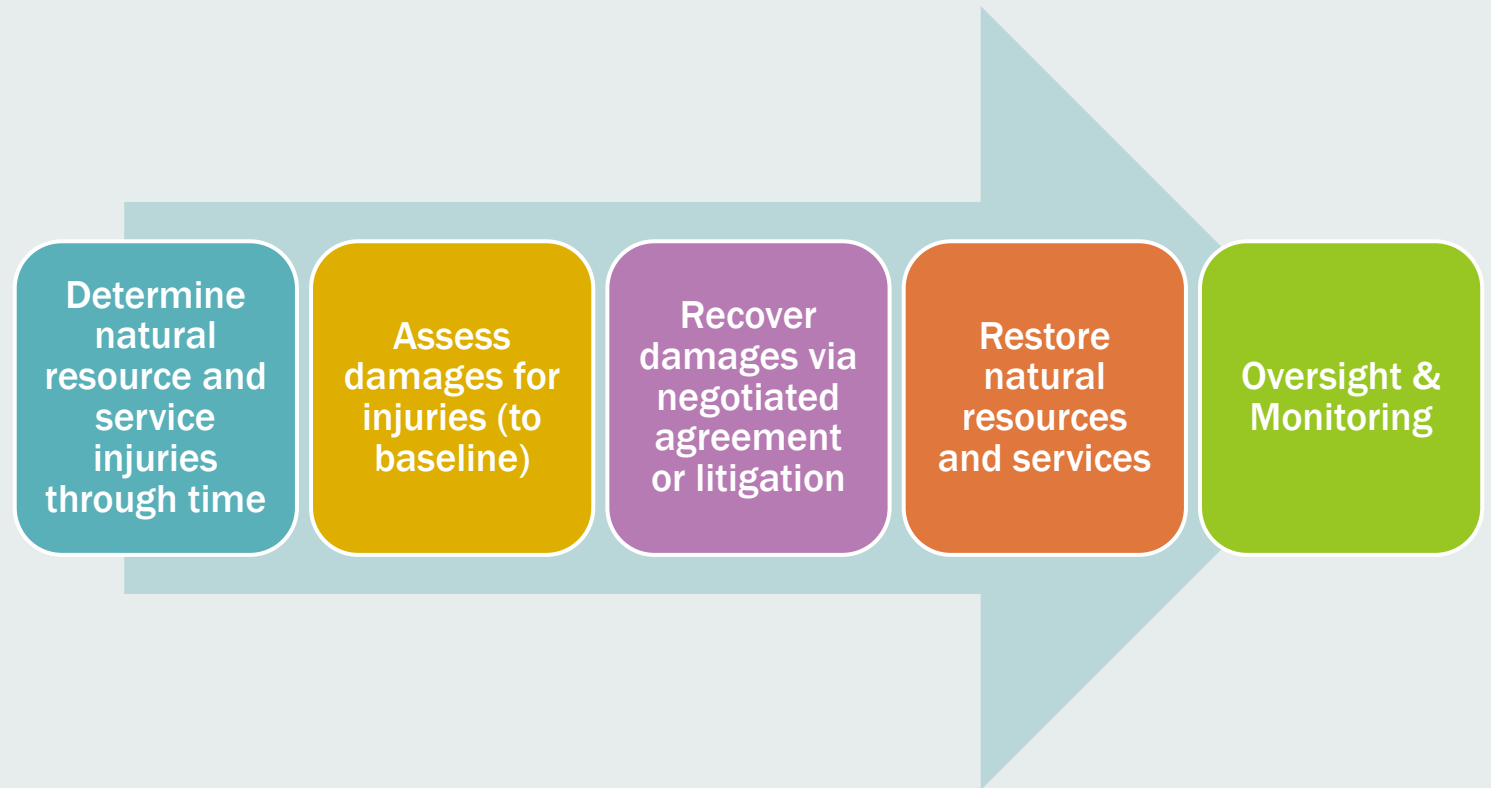


VA Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (VADGIF)

**WHAT IS NATURAL
RESOURCE DAMAGE
ASSESSMENT &
RESTORATION (NRDAR)?**

NATURAL RESOURCE DAMAGE ASSESSMENT AND RESTORESTION IS . . .

- Led by Trustees
- A legal and scientific process, defined in federal regulations, to determine the amount and type of restoration to offset injuries
- Conducted parallel to, and continuing after, the spill response or release
- NRDAR's goal is to restore injured resources and services



NRDAR IS NOT . . .

- Punitive
- A fine, penalty, or enforcement action
- Part of response or removal actions (aka – cleanup)
- Mitigation
- Compensation for economic losses



*****THIS MEETING IS NOT ABOUT CLOSURE OF COAL ASH STORAGE FACILITIES**

NRDAR

WHY?

- To make the environment and public whole from injury to natural resources

HOW?

- Restore, replace, and/or acquire the equivalent of injured resources and ecosystem services lost



Credit: USEPA



Credit: VA DGIF

THE DAN RIVER COAL ASH SPILL

DAN RIVER COAL ASH SPILL

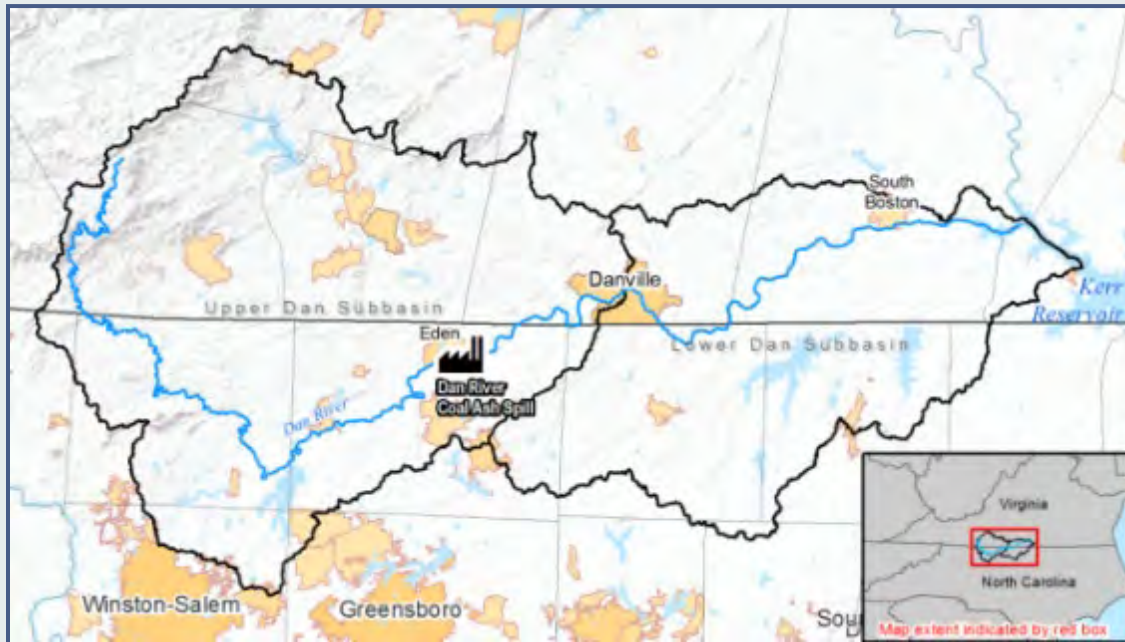
On Feb 2, 2014, stormwater pipe at Duke Energy Dan River Steam Station failed and released ash and ash pond water into the Dan River

EPA Release Estimate		
Water	27,000,000	gallons
Ash	39,000	tons



Credit: USEPA

SUMMARY OF THE RELEASE



Credit: NCWRC



Credit: USEPA

SUMMARY OF THE RELEASE

- Trustees engaged in spill response
 - Technical assistance on sensitive resources
 - Ephemeral data collection
- Interagency Workgroup
- Early exploration of restoration options



POTENTIAL SPILL INJURIES

Natural Resources Affected

- Freshwater fish
- Migratory birds
- Lands (wetlands, floodplain, instream)
- Aquatic and terrestrial plants
- Invertebrates
- Surface waters and sediments

Services Affected

- Recreation
- Habitat for species



Credit: USFWS



Federally endangered Roanoke logperch, Conservation Fisheries, Inc.



Federally endangered James spiny mussel, USFWS

DAN RIVER NRDAR TIMELINE

- 2/4/2014: Spill at Dan River Steam Station
- 3/2014: Preliminary assessment of monitoring data; notice of intent to initiate NRDAR
- 5/2014: Trustee council formed
- 6/2014: Joint participation agreement with Duke Energy
- 10/2014: Public input solicited on possible restoration
- 12/2014: Summary of public restoration input released to public
- 6/2015: Damage Assessment Plan developed and released to public
- 12/2015: Final Damage Assessment Plan released to public
- 2016 – Implementation of restoration projects and development of Restoration Plan
- 7/2019: Draft Restoration Plan released to public; settlement agreement with Duke Energy reached



**PROPOSED
RESTORATION
PROJECTS, PUBLIC
INVOLVEMENT AND NEXT
STEPS**

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC INPUT ON RESTORATION

- 118 total respondents
- Respondents included members of public plus 18 organizations
- Projects the public most frequently supported have been implemented or are in progress including:
 - Dam removal
 - Adding new river access points
 - Land acquisition (Mayo State Parks)

CATEGORY	PROJECT SUGGESTIONS
AVOIDED HABITAT LOSS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 18 land protection opportunities suggested• Overlap with rare species and recreation
FISH PASSAGE	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dam removal in VA to benefit endangered Roanoke logperch (RLP)
RIVERINE	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 6 project opportunities suggested• <i>Hydrilla</i> treatment, instream & riparian restoration, water quality improvements
RARE AND NONGAME SPECIES	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 5 project opportunities suggested• RLP, small anthered bittercress protection, riparian restoration, dam removal
IMPROVE FISHING EXPERIENCE	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Recommendations included 18 access points• Motor, canoe/kayak, and handicap
EXPAND RIVER-BASED RECREATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 22 project opportunities suggested• Park/trail improvements & expansion, facilities, <i>Hydrilla</i> treatment, dam removal, ramp silt removal

PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE RESTORATION PROJECTS



Mayo River
Conservation



Power Dam
Removal on Pigg R



Abreu-Grogan Park
Improvements



New boat access on
Dan R

- Acquisition and conservation of Mayo River floodplain and riverbank
- Aquatic habitat restoration in the Pigg River via removal of Power Dam
- Establishment of public boat launch facilities on the Dan River
- Improvements to the Abreu Grogan Park in Danville, Virginia

HOW YOU CAN PARTICIPATE

- Review the Draft Restoration Plan and Environmental Assessment and provide comments
 - Comment card at tonight's meeting
 - Review plan (select link to plan under "case documents")
https://www.cerc.usgs.gov/orda_docs/CaseDetails?ID=984
 - Submit written comments to Sara_Ward@fws.gov or Susan_Lingenfelter@fws.gov or by mail (USFWS Virginia Field Office, 6669 Short Lane, Gloucester, VA 23061, Attn: Dan River Restoration Plan)
- Check out the restoration projects that have already been implemented – learn about them at information tables tonight then get outside and enjoy them!

THE NEXT STEPS

- Public Comment period closes
September 9, 2019
- Summary of comments and responses provided
- Finalize restoration plans
- Complete on-the ground restoration!



Roanoke logperch, NCWRC



THANK YOU

Sara_Ward@fws.gov

or

Susan_Lingenfelser@fws.gov

