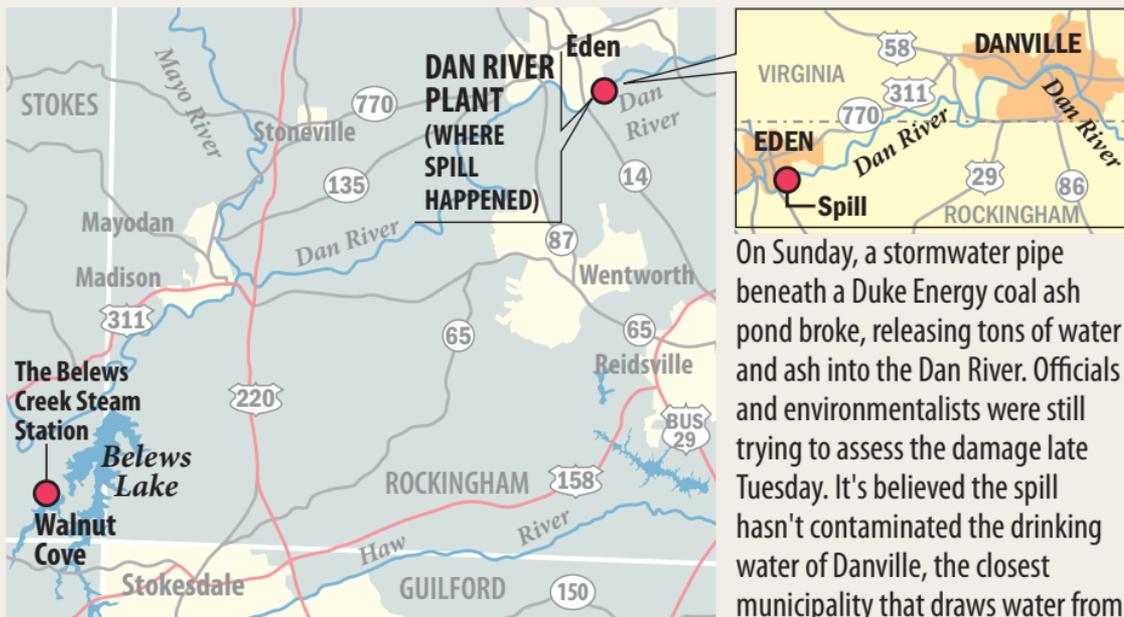


HAZARDOUS COAL ASH PONDS IN N.C.

Eden has two coal ash ponds on the the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's list of 44 most hazardous ponds in the United States. The Belews Creek Steam Station pond at Walnut Cove also made the list. Buncombe, Gaston and Catawba counties also have sites which made the most hazardous list.



On Sunday, a stormwater pipe beneath a Duke Energy coal ash pond broke, releasing tons of water and ash into the Dan River. Officials and environmentalists were still trying to assess the damage late Tuesday. It's believed the spill hasn't contaminated the drinking water of Danville, the closest municipality that draws water from the Dan River.