



# Public Power Utilities

## Provide Electricity and More

**P**ublic power\* is a critical component in the energy future of this nation, providing both a voice and a choice for the public. The return on stakeholder investment is not seen in a stock portfolio. Instead, it is measured by improvements in the quality of life and prosperity in the regions served by public power.

Public power provides over 25 percent of this nation's electricity to about 74 million people. Consumer options must be preserved as restructuring of the electric industry moves forward.

### The benefits of public power include:

- Public power is the “yardstick” that sets the standard for competitive pricing and reliability in harmony with environmental stewardship and economic growth. Public power’s ability to provide competitively priced, reliable electric power brings benefits even to those areas not presently served by public power by providing successful models.
- Consumers have a right to have the choice of locally owned, regionally based public power as part of the competitive market diversity.
- Public choice needs to be preserved. It is critical to the successful implementation of a deregulated marketplace that there is a diversity of consumer choices. Public power and its accompanying benefits should remain one of those choices.
- Public power answers to stakeholders, not stockholders. Because of this, in a deregulated marketplace, long-term decisions that affect the quality of life of customers must come first for public power.
- By the nature of its local and regional control structure and its public service mandates, public power is accountable to the people it serves and the investments provided by those same stakeholders.
- Public power provides a means for effective collaboration in research development, demonstration, and deployment to promote new energy-related technologies that promote public benefit. These benefits include environmental quality, energy innovation, improved efficiency, and lower costs of providing energy.

\* Public power includes municipalities, cooperatives, federal power management administrations, and TVA.