How a typical coal-fired power plant works

- Coal is pulverized into a fine powder and blown into the furnace, where it is burned.
- The burning coal heats treated water in a boiler, turning the water into steam.
- The steam, under tremendous temperature and pressure, flows into a turbine, where the force of the steam spins the turbine blades.
- The turbine spins a magnet inside copper coils in a generator to produce the flow of electrons called electricity.
- The electricity travels through the transmission and distribution system's wires to provide power to homes and businesses.
- After leaving the turbine, the steam passes over tubes filled with river water in a condenser, where the steam changes back to water and is reused.
- River water, used to condense the steam, is returned to the river at a slightly higher temperature that is in compliance with environmental regulations.



Overview – TVA's coal-fired plants

	Number of units	Winter Net Capacity, megawatts	Construction Span
Allen	3	753	1956-59
Bull Run	1	870	1962-67
Colbert	5	1198	1951-65
Cumberland	2	2530	1968-73
Gallatin	4	988	1953-59
John Sevier	4	712	1952-57
Johnsonville	10	1254	1949-59
Kingston	9	1456	1951-55
Paradise	3	2273	1959-70
Shawnee	10	1369	1951-57
Widows Creek	8	1629	1950-65

Overview — TVA's combustion turbine sites

Allen	20	575	1970-72
Colbert	8	486	1970-72
Gallatin	4	328	1973-75
	4	402	1999-00
Johnsonville	16	994	1970-72
	4	378	1999-00
Kemper	4	374	2001-02
Lagoon Creek	12	1125	2000-02

For information on each of these generating plants, go to **www.tva.com/sites.**

TVA's plants are consistently ranked among the bestperforming coal-fired facilities in the nation.

Bull Run has been ranked among the nation's 10 most efficient coal-fired plants every year since 1996. It has earned the top slot several times on the list, which is compiled annually by *Electric Light and Power* magazine.



Looking ahead

By emphasizing operational efficiency, safety, and innovation, TVA's fossil system will continue its trend of excellent service to the people of the Tennessee Valley. TVA's Fossil Power Group is prepared to meet the challenges of the future—protecting the environment through its extensive projects to reduce power plant emissions and helping TVA respond to competition and restructuring in the electric utility industry by continuing to provide the bulk of TVA's reliable, affordable power.

Fossil Plants



The backbone of the TVA power system

www.tva.com



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TVA is the nation's largest public power provider, supplying electricity to large industries and 158 power distributors that serve 8.6 million consumers in seven southeastern states. **TVA** also offers economic development services and manages the Tennessee **River system to provide** multiple benefits, including flood damage reduction, navigation, recreation, and water quality and supply. Although TVA is owned by the federal government, all of its programs and business operations are self-financed.

Fossil plants are fired by fossil fuels such as coal. natural gas, and petroleum products, which are formed from animals and plants that died



millions of years ago. TVA's fossil fleet includes coal-fired plants and combustion turbines that are fueled by natural gas and fuel oil.

The 59 units at TVA's 11 coal-fired plants represent about 50 percent of the company's generating capacity and provide about 60 percent of the power produced by TVA. In addition, 72 combustion turbines provide power primarily during peak operating periods, when the demand for electricity is high.

The coal-fired and combustion turbine units contribute to TVA's diverse generating mix—which also includes, nuclear, hydropower, and renewable energy sources—helping to provide flexibility and reliability and keep costs competitive.

Safetv

Safety is given the highest priority by TVA's Fossil Power Group. Based on data reported by the Edison Electric Institute, TVA's system of fossil plants ranks among the safest in the country.



Emission controls

More than half of the electricity produced in the U.S. comes from plants that burn coal. These coal-fired plants emit several substances, including sulfur dioxide (SO₂) and nitrogen oxides (NO_x), that are regulated by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

A report issued in 2004 by the EPA indicates that air quality in the Southeast and the nation has steadily improved over the



Since the early 1970s, TVA has invested more than \$4.5 billion in emission-control equipment at its 11 coal-fired power plants. Additional scrubbers and other control equipment to further reduce emissions will raise that total to nearly \$5.7 billion.





TVA has reduced emissions of SO₂, which contributes to acid rain, by more than 80 percent since 1977. Adding five more scrubbers and switching to lowersulfur coals on some other units will reduce SO₂ emissions by 85 percent.

TVA has installed selective catalytic reduction (SCR) systems on 21 of its coal-fired units to reduce NO_x emissions. The SCRs, along with other controls operated from May through September, have reduced NOx emissions during the ozone season by 80 percent since 1995.

By improving the efficiency and increasing the capacity of its cleanest sources of power, while also improving the efficiency of its fossil system, TVA has avoided emitting almost 275 million tons of carbon dioxide (CO₂) over the past decade.

A research project at TVA's Paradise Fossil Plant is testing the usefulness of planting trees on reclaimed coal-mining lands to capture and store carbon and keep it out of the atmosphere. The project is also evaluating the use of gypsum by-products and wastewater from the plant's operations for soil enrichment and irrigation to increase the trees' growth.

For more information about TVA's clean-air initiatives, go to www.tva.com/environment/air.

Combustion turbines

Combustion turbines (CTs) are industrial-sized gas turbines similar to jet engines that are used to make electricity. TVA's combustion turbines operate primarily on natural gas but can also burn fuel oil, adding to the flexibility and economical operation of the power system. The units are designed to start quickly and are operated on an as-needed basis, providing power during periods of high consumer demand.

There are 72 combustion turbine units at six CT sites in the Tennessee Valley. The CT units produced some 595 million kilowatt-hours in 2005. While they accounted for only 0.4 percent of the total generation, the availability of these quick-start facilities at times of peak demand bolsters TVA's ability to ensure that its customers have reliable, affordable power at all times.



Good neighbor

The states and counties where TVA-owned power property is located receive tax-equivalent payments based on power sales revenues. TVA and its employees also spend millions of dollars in the communities around the plants.

Many TVA employees are known as good neighbors because of their volunteer service and participation in community activities.

