



Tennessee Valley Authority

Visitor Center

Open daily except major holidays

9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

TVA is proud of Raccoon Mountain Pumped Storage Plant and the benefits it provides to local and regional residents. Enjoy your visit, and thank you for taking the time to learn more about TVA power plants. If you have additional questions, please see a Visitor Center staff member. Also visit www.tva.com for further information about the Tennessee Valley Authority, including annual and environmental reports, events, history, and facilities.

Raccoon Mountain

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The water drops 990 feet

from the upper reservoir at Raccoon Mountain Pumped Storage Plant to the turbines deep inside the mountain. After the water is used to generate electricity, it is discharged into the lower reservoir.

Penstock, or pipe, that carries water from upper reservoir to turbines

Many people considered it a crazy idea when the plant was built in the 1970s. But Raccoon Mountain has proved its worth to the TVA system, providing power during periods of peak demand for electricity.

- Upper dam height** 230 feet
- Upper dam length** 8,500 feet
- Power capacity** 4 units supplying 1,532 megawatts
- Upper reservoir length** 1.2 miles
- Built** 1970-78

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How does a pumped storage plant work?

Water is pumped from the lower reservoir to the upper one during periods of low demand. It's stored there until power is needed, and then water is pulled from the reservoir and into a large concrete pipe that leads almost 1,000 feet down inside the mountain. The flow of water spins the turbines, which rotate a shaft inside an electromagnetic coil, producing electricity. When power generation isn't needed, the turbines operate in reverse, pumping water back up into the upper reservoir.



- Fishing
- Powerhouse
- Visitor Center
- Picnic Area
- Overlook
- Baseball
- Volleyball
- Boat Launch

