

# TVA at a Glance



For more than seven decades, the Tennessee Valley Authority has improved the quality of life in the Tennessee Valley, making our region a better place to live, work, and raise a family. As a federal corporation and the nation's largest public power provider, TVA touches millions of lives through three key areas:

**Energy** – providing affordable, reliable electric power that helps businesses and families prosper. TVA sells power to 159 local distributors that serve 8.8 million people and 650,000 businesses and industries in the seven-state TVA service area. It covers almost all of Tennessee and parts of Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, and Virginia. TVA also sells power to about 60 large industrial customers and federal installations.



**Environmental stewardship** – helping our region thrive and enabling residents to enjoy a higher quality of life by managing the Tennessee River and adjoining lands to provide a better environment for our children and grandchildren. Through its river system operations, TVA reduces flooding, provides for river transportation and power production, maintains water quality, and supports recreation.

**Economic development** – building partnerships that foster economic prosperity. TVA helps companies and communities attract investments that bring good jobs to our region and keep them here.

## Financial

- TVA is financially self-supporting and receives no funding from taxpayers.
- TVA provides competitive rates and transmission services that have been 99.999 percent reliable for eight consecutive years.
- TVA uses revenue, bonds, notes, and other forms of borrowing to finance its power system. TVA bonds and notes are backed by the TVA power system rather than guaranteed by the U.S. Government.
- Investors in all 50 states and more than 60 nations have purchased TVA bonds and notes.
- TVA's rated senior bonds and notes receive the highest possible credit ratings (AAA/Aaa) from major credit rating agencies Standard & Poor's, Fitch Ratings, and Moody's Investors Service.



## Energy

### TVA's power system

- TVA's power system consists of a diverse mix of fuel sources, including fossil, nuclear, hydro, and renewables. TVA has 11 coal-fired and eight combustion-turbine sites; three nuclear plants; 29 hydroelectric dams and one pumped-storage plant; and 16 solar power sites, one wind-power site, and one methane gas site.
- In 2007, TVA earned revenues of more than \$9.24 billion and generated more than 156 billion kilowatt-hours of electricity – more than any other public utility in the nation. Of this amount, coal plants provided about 64 percent, nuclear supplied 30 percent, and hydroelectric produced 6 percent.
- TVA supplies power through a network of 15,800 miles of transmission line; 117,000 transmission structures; and 1,054 interchange and connection points.

### Reliability and affordability

- TVA provides more electricity than any other public utility in the nation with competitive rates and transmission services that have been 99.999 percent reliable for eight consecutive years.
- TVA expands its facilities to meet rising demand while keeping rates affordable. In 2007, Browns Ferry Nuclear Unit 1 became the first U.S. nuclear unit brought online in the 21st century. It generates enough safe, clean power to serve a city the size of Chattanooga.

## Environmental Stewardship

### River and land management

- TVA operates a system of 49 dams and reservoirs on the 652-mile-long Tennessee River and its tributaries and manages 293,000 acres of public land.
- TVA manages the river system as an integrated unit to provide a wide range of benefits. These

include year-round navigation, reduced flooding, economical electrical power, recreational opportunities, improved water quality, and a reliable supply of water to cool power plants and meet municipal and industrial needs.

- Barges on the Tennessee River carry some 50 million tons of goods annually, saving industries about \$450 million in freight charges compared with shipping by other means. This leads to lower prices for consumer goods, fewer trucks on our highways, and cleaner air in our region.
- TVA operates its 34 flood control dams as a unified system to prevent, in an average year, an estimated \$230 million in flood damage in the Tennessee Valley and along the Mississippi and Ohio rivers.

### Air quality

- TVA has reduced its power plant emissions to their lowest levels in decades and is working aggressively to further improve air quality. When all current clean air projects are completed, TVA will have invested \$5.8 billion to reduce emissions from its coal-fired power plants.

## Economic Development

- In 2007, TVA economic development investments helped attract or keep some 45,000 jobs in the region and leveraged \$5.6 billion in capital investment from other sources. TVA also provided \$452 million in tax-equivalent payments to Valley communities for 2007. TVA has made nearly \$2.5 billion in tax-equivalent payments during the past seven years.
- TVA offers an array of services and financial resources, including economic development loan funds to assist new and growing businesses, site-selection assistance, community development, and woman- and minority-owned business support.