



2019 March Newsletter

March 2019

Heavy Rains Fill Temporary Cofferd Dam; Delay Work on Replacement Lock at Chickamauga Dam

One of Chattanooga's biggest construction projects is being delayed after heavy rains filled in a temporary coffer dam erected to help build a new \$758 million replacement lock at the Chickamauga Dam. Within the new 110-foot-by-600-foot lock being built beneath the dam, a major excavation project was completed in January just before record February rainfall forced the Tennessee Valley Authority to open up most of the spillways at the Chickamauga Dam and raise the Tennessee River by 12 feet above its normal level.

The higher river and heavy rain complicated efforts to keep the water out of the coffer dam, where crews have removed more than 100,000 cubic yards of dirt and rock to dig down 35 feet to the riverbed. Adam Walker, project manager for the Chickamauga Lock replacement project for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, said the excavation equipment was largely removed from the lock chamber early last month, but the rains a few weeks later delayed the start of the next phase of the lock construction.

"The decision was made last month that if we were going to be battling high waters and having to burn a lot of fuel trying to keep the dewatering pumps running to keep the water out of the coffer dam, it just made more sense to turn off the pumps and allow the coffer dam to fill until conditions return to normal," Walker said. "We're eager to get to dewatering within the coffer dam and get back working on the next phase of the project. But it doesn't look like the water levels and flow on the river will get back to a point where it is really effective to resume work for some time."

With more rain forecast on and off for the next 30 days, TVA expects to keep the flow of water through the Chickamauga Dam above 100,000 cubic feet per second, keeping the existing lock closed and barge traffic off the river due to safety concerns from the heavy flow and high water, especially through the Tennessee River gorge west of downtown Chattanooga on Nickajack Reservoir.

Heeter GeoTechnical, which completed its excavation work on February 1st, dug down as much as 35 feet in the river bottom to prepare the lock site beneath the dam and work is now scheduled to begin on erecting the concrete walls of the new lock. AECOM is the contractor for the next \$240 million phase of the project to build the new concrete walls of the lock. A concrete batch plant has been installed at the site and, by this summer, a conveyor system and tower crane to move the concrete to the lock site should be in place and in operation for the lock construction — "assuming it stops raining," Walker said.



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TVA Handles Debris From Heavy Rains At Dams

Amid the wettest February in recorded history, the Tennessee Valley Authority held back more than 3.5 trillion gallons of water to help prevent over \$1.6 billion in flood damage across the Tennessee Valley in February. Despite those damages averted, the raging waters and record rainfall caused extensive erosion along Tennessee River banks. Also, the rising water in the system washed tons of debris onto shoreline properties, recreation areas and even into TVA dams.

Trees, logs, docks, trash and other debris were torn away and washed miles downstream, scouring and littering shorelines and clogging trash gates at some TVA dams. The deluge of debris impacted or threatened generation at several TVA dams, including Wheeler, Nickajack, Great Falls and Pickwick at a time when massive amounts of water were being pushed through the dams to prevent flooding. For example, Pickwick Dam was releasing 4 million gallons per second at its peak flow.

TVA crews including Hydro Operations, Dam Safety, and River Management worked together 24/7 to overcome any debris disruptions and to manage the river, protect Valley residents and their property, and to provide reliable power throughout the deluge.

“We had to briefly stop generation at some dams because of the huge amount of debris coming downstream,” said Stacey Parrott, general manager for Hydro Generation. “We worked with crews from across TVA to keep the gates clear, clean out excessive accumulations and address any issues created by the debris to keep our turbines working throughout this event.”

TVA’s Dam Safety team continue to be busy conducting inspections at several sites to make sure all the dams, spillway gates and other mechanisms were performing properly in the face of the massive hydraulic force generated created by February’s record high water levels and the huge amounts of water flowing through them.

“Our electrical and mechanical equipment worked reliably during the peak periods, with minimal issues,” said Jennifer Dodd, general manager of Dam Safety. “A number of systems were called upon at critical times to perform under some of the most adverse conditions we’ve ever seen, and they all operated as designed.”



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Jeffrey Lyash Named TVA President & Chief Executive Officer

The TVA Board of Directors announced that Jeffrey Lyash will become President and CEO of the \$11 billion federal corporation, effective April 2019. Lyash, 57, will succeed William D. Johnson, who has served as TVA's second President and CEO since 2013.

Lyash is president and CEO of Ontario Power Generation Inc., one of the largest electrical generating companies in Canada. He was formerly President of CB&I Power and Executive Vice President of Energy Supply for Duke Energy. He began his career in the utility industry in 1981, joining Progress Energy in 1993 where he held a wide range of management and executive roles that gave him extensive corporate and operations leadership experience.

Before joining Progress Energy, Lyash worked for the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission in a number of senior technical and management positions throughout the northeast United States and in Washington, D.C. He has held a Senior Reactor Operator License from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

"The TVA position is attractive, particularly at this juncture," said TVA Board Chair Richard Howorth. "The progress that Bill Johnson has accomplished with TVA has been remarkable to witness. His leadership and guidance have put TVA on a clear path of continuous improvement -momentum that I believe Jeff Lyash will enjoy carrying further. It is now about creating and leading the next long-range plan to address industry challenges and meet consumer demands."

STULZ Air Technology Systems Locates Manufacturing Plant in Dayton, Tennessee

STULZ Air Technology Systems Inc., a leading manufacturer of precision HVAC equipment and solutions, will establish manufacturing operations in Dayton, Tennessee.

The company will invest \$2 million and create 250 jobs in Rhea County. STULZ will establish its operations in the former International Automotive Components building at 311 Greenway Blvd. in Dayton.

With its global headquarters in Hamburg, Germany, STULZ operates ten other production facilities across the globe, employing more than 7,200 people. STULZ has more than 450 employees at its North American headquarters in Frederick, MD.

"STULZ chose to open a manufacturing facility in Dayton because of the outstanding and highly skilled workforce along with the great business-friendly climate of Dayton, Rhea County, and the state of Tennessee," Andy Tuthill, STULZ's Vice President of Manufacturing Operations, said.

"STULZ's decision to create hundreds of jobs in Rhea County is tremendous news for Southeast Tennessee," Governor Bill Lee said. "We're committed to supporting job growth in rural Tennessee, and an investment like this from STULZ will spark terrific economic activity in Rhea County and the area."

"Rhea County has a long, rich history as a leader in the HVAC industry, and I'd like to thank STULZ for its decision to establish operations in Dayton," Department of Economic and Community Development Commissioner Bob Rolfe said. "Tennessee's Tier-4 communities like Rhea County have our utmost attention when it comes to attracting new jobs and industry. By creating 250 jobs in Dayton, STULZ promises to provide steady incomes for hundreds of families in Rhea



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County.”

“We are always excited to recruit new, high paying jobs to Rhea County,” Dayton Mayor Gary Louallen said. “Our skilled workforce combined with our business-friendly environment helped to make this opportunity a reality. We're thrilled to have this significant investment from STULZ here in Dayton.”

“We are very proud to have STULZ choose Rhea County and the City of Dayton for its next manufacturing operation,” Rhea County Executive George Thacker said. “Our community is experiencing unprecedented growth and we're proud that STULZ will be a huge part of that continued momentum.”

“TVA and City of Dayton Electric congratulate STULZ on its decision to locate and create new job opportunities in Rhea County,” TVA Senior Vice President of Economic Development John Bradley said. “Helping to foster new job opportunities is fundamental to TVA's core mission of service and we are proud to partner with the Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development and Rhea County Economic and Tourism Council to help further that mission.”

ATVG 2019 Meeting Locations and Dates

- **April 16, 2019 Hyatt Place; Bowling Green, KY**
- **July 10, 2019 Brasstown Valley Resort; Blairsville/Young Harris, GA**
- **October 28, 2019 Marriott Courtyard; Gatlinburg, TN**



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NUKE PLANT UPRATE: Final Reactor Being Modified

Unit 2 of Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant was taken offline Saturday, March 2nd as part of a scheduled refueling outage, before being taken offline for the outage; Unit 2 generated electricity for 695 days, including a consecutive run of 401 days. During the outage, an augmented workforce will assist in the completion of 11,000 work activities, including modifications that will enable to reactor to produce more power.

Once the work is completed and tested, Unit 2 will become the third and final unit able to generate more electricity under an Extended Power Uprate approved by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. The uprate will enable Browns Ferry to generate a total of 465 megawatts of additional electricity, or 3,933 megawatts total. That would be enough to power an additional 280,000 homes and help TVA “fulfill its mission of service and economic development.”

“Being able to generate more power than ever before at Browns Ferry is the result of a lot of good, hard work by TVA employees and our vendor partners to uphold our top priority — protecting the health and safety of the public — while increasing our ability to meet the current and future energy needs of the Tennessee Valley,” said Lang Hughes, Browns Ferry site vice president.

TVA expects to spend approximately \$475 million implementing EPU at Browns Ferry. Unit 3 started generating electricity at the higher EPU power rating in mid-July 2018 while Unit 1 started generating at full EPU power in late January of this year.

“We learned a great deal upgrading Units 1 and 3 to generate more power and will apply those lessons as we install modifications on Unit 2 during this outage and conduct extensive testing to ensure safety and verify plant response,” Hughes said.

Top Camping Spots for Enjoying Nature in the Tennessee River Valley

“Camping in the Tennessee River Valley region offers the perfect setting for families to connect with each other and with nature. Visitors will have tons of acres to explore during the day while nights are spent gazing at millions of stars,” said Julie Graham, spokesperson for the Tennessee River Valley Stewardship Council.

A little something about the Tennessee River Valley:

Beginning in the southwest corner of Virginia, the Tennessee River Valley region cuts through the mountainous areas of Tennessee, North Carolina, and Northern Georgia, into the rolling hills and bottomlands of northern Alabama and Mississippi and then north through the marshes and wetlands of middle-west Tennessee and ending in western Kentucky. The Tennessee River Valley offers a compelling story, captivating visitors with its little unknown facts, pristine, untouched areas and rich, authentic experiences. Save trip ideas and plan a trip easily with the Tennessee River Valley Geotourism MapGuide, an online guide of authentic places and adventures that have been recommended by locals.

Bald Mountain Camping Resort, Hiawasse, GA

Visits in the spring, summer or fall are all ideal times to get away to the Bald Mountain Camping Resort in northeast Georgia. The mountains provide a beautiful backdrop and plenty activities are available within a short drive. Open from April 1 to October 31, the resort is located two hours northeast of Atlanta.

Bear Resort Campground, Benton, KY

Located on one of the biggest man-made lakes in the world, Big Bear Resort Campground has been a popular camping spot for families for over 60 years. Surrounded by the pristine waters of Kentucky Lake, Big Bear encompasses 52 acres of rolling woodlands and campers may camp right on the water’s edge.

Piney Campground at Land Between the Lakes, Dover, TN

Piney Campground is part of Land Between the Lakes National Recreation Area, a 170,000-acre playground nestled



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between Kentucky Lake and Lake Barkley. Land Between the Lakes offers 300 miles of undeveloped shoreline for paddlers, boaters, fishermen and campers.

Mountain Glen RV Park and Campground, Pikeville, TN

Mountain Glen RV Park and Campground is located in southeastern Tennessee on the scenic Cumberland Plateau in Pikeville, TN. Just fifteen minutes from beautiful Fall Creek Falls State Park and centrally located between Knoxville, Nashville and Chattanooga.

Big Ridge State Park, Maynardville, TN

Bounded on three sides by Norris Lake, Big Ridge State Park was one of the five demonstration parks developed by the TVA in cooperation with the National Park Service and Civilian Conservation Corps. The heavily forested park offers both lakeside campsites and wooded campsites and is home to a variety of activities.

Tishomingo State Park Campground, Tishomingo, MS

Located in the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains, Tishomingo State Park is steeped in history and scenic beauty. Archeological excavations confirm the presence of Paleo Indians in the area now encompassed by the park as early as 7000 B.C. The famous Natchez Parkway, the premier highway of the early 1800s and a National Scenic Byway and All-American Road, runs directly through the park.

Watauga Dam Campground, Elizabethton, TN

A TVA campground, the Watauga Dam Campground is located on the banks of the peaceful Watauga River in eastern Tennessee. Beautiful scenery can be seen in all directions and the calming waters of the river provide an ideal setting for a relaxing getaway. Currently the campground has no tent sites, but has 29 RV sites, many of which are right on the river. The campground is open from March 15 to November 15, 2019.

For more information or to discover additional camping spots in the Tennessee River Valley, visit www.exploreTRV.com.



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Association of Tennessee Valley Governments

Spring Meeting April 16th & 17th, 2019

Hyatt Place

1347 Center Street

Bowling Green, KY 42101 1-270-467-0001

Tuesday, April 16, 2019 (Central Time Zone)

Noon Pizza lunch served in Cupola Room at the Hyatt Place Hotel

1:00 p.m. Welcome - Brad Warning; ATVG Board President

1:15 to 5:00 p.m. ATVG Program:

- **TVA Update by Bert Robinson;** including new CEO, new Board of Director confirmations, status of IRP public input, recent fossil plant closure announcements, etc.
- **Flood Control** including TVA response to February record rainfall in the Valley and TVA's River Forecast Center by Director James Everett
- **Corps of Engineer** presentation including flood management and Kentucky Lock
- **Industrialized Hemp** as agricultural crop presentation with Kentucky Department of Agricultural and Murray State Center for Agricultural Hemp

5:30 p.m. Depart for Dinner – directions will be provided

6:00 p.m. Social Hour and Dinner at National Corvette Museum with TVA Board Director Kenneth Allen (Museum also has a unique traveling exhibit by NASA and the Marshal Space Flight Center titled "From Gas Station to Space Station" celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the Lunar Landing) Dinner is hosted by the Kentucky Association of Counties. Thank you KACo!

Wednesday April 17, 2019 (Central Time Zone)

8:00 a.m. Country Breakfast in the Cupola Room for ATVG Members, Spouses and Guests

9:00 a.m. ATVG Board of Directors Meeting (separate agenda will be provided)

Please help us make necessary arrangements by letting us know if you will be attending. Send the enclosed registration form by email to: registration@atvg.org or by U.S. mail to: ATVG, P.O. Box 3578, Clarksville, TN 37043.

Association of Tennessee Valley Governments Meeting Registration Form

Registration Fee: \$100.00 for members and affiliates; \$200.00 for non-members

Name: _____

E-Mail: _____

Spouse's Name: _____

Registration Fee for spouse is included/No additional charge

Company/Organization: _____

Full Address: _____

Make checks payable to: Association of Tennessee Valley Governments- P.O. Box 3578 – Clarksville, TN 37043



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P.O. Box 3578
Clarksville, TN 37043-3578
Telephone (931) 553-4265

Email: memberservices@atvg.org

ATVG is a 501(c) (4), not-for-profit, public interest
organization.

ATVG advocates for the interests of county and
city/town governments residing within the seven-state
TVA region and their partners in the public and
private sectors.

*For details about ATVG's mission and program
of work, visit us on line at: www.atvg.org*