



JUNE 2020 NEWSLETTER

Important Update: Meeting Cancellation

Summer Meeting, 2020

After discussions with the ATVG Board Executive Committee and several Board members the decision has been made to cancel the ATVG meeting scheduled for July 7th & 8th in Huntsville, AL. Several factors contributed to this decision:

1. The continued unknown status of COVID-19 over the next few weeks and the CDC's guidance with which we are all familiar;
2. At this time it would be difficult for ATVG to secure a restaurant that would allow seating for 50 to 60 people due to current social distancing guidelines;
3. The fact that TVA is currently not allowing its employees to attend any meetings involving more than 15 participants so TVA's involvement would be in doubt;
4. Many local government officials continue to be preoccupied in addressing the serious issues associated with prevention of the spread of the virus.

I discussed with these issues with the **NASA Space and Rocket Center** and we have committed to rescheduling a meeting there in 2021.

We hope that you will mark your calendars now for our expanded 2 day fall meeting in Gatlinburg on October 27th and 28th

Everyone stay healthy and safe!!

Mike Arms

ATVG Executive Director



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TVA Secures Hand Sanitizer and Cleaning Supplies from Local Distilleries

As part of its ongoing fight against the COVID-19 pandemic, the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) has tapped the region's distilleries that are converting liquor into undrinkable hand sanitizer and disinfectant spray. TVA has secured thousands of gallons of liquor-based cleaner and hand gels.

TVA noted that distilleries around the world are blending gin, rum, vodka and whiskey with bitter denaturing solutions that transform liquor into hand sanitizer and disinfectant spray. Gate 11 Distillery is one of four vendors that TVA is currently using to provide the fleet with hand sanitizer and disinfectant. In March, Gate 11 completed one of TVA's first high-volume orders by filling two 250-gallon plastic totes with the product. TVA transported the containers to its Sequoyah Nuclear Plant to support the Unit 2 refueling outage that concluded on May 5th.

According to Head Distiller Bill Lee, manufacturing cleaning products has become almost 100 percent of Gate 11's (and a number of other regional distilleries' business) in this new COVID-19 environment. The distillery now serves TVA, the Electric Power Board of Chattanooga, which is a public power utility, Volkswagen and emergency response teams throughout Hamilton County, Tennessee.

"We've called on distilleries all over the Tennessee Valley for this product," said Wes Hale, TVA senior contracts manager, Supply Chain. "We live in a great area to be able to secure safe, alternative hand sanitizer like this."

In one instance, TVA purchased liquor-based sanitizer in bulk from a distributor that secured product from a distillery in Culpeper, VA. The order shipped to Custom Werks in Chattanooga where it was repackaged in eight-ounce bottles and branded with custom TVA labels.

TVA said that the distilled disinfectants and hand sanitizers will be readily available for employees for the foreseeable future as TVA enters into a phased, return-to-work approach for a limited number of the employees who have been working remotely.



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Plastics Manufacturer to Bring 115 Jobs to Unicoi County, TN

Mexico-based plastics manufacturer PlastiExports is coming to Erwin. Tyler Engle, executive director of the Joint Economic and Community Development Board of Unicoi County, announced that the company has invested \$7 million in the former Regal Beloit facility in Erwin's Riverview Industrial Park with plans to employ 115 people here by 2025.

Regal Beloit announced its plans to close its Erwin plant in November, displacing 120 workers. In a reversal of fortune for manufacturing in Unicoi County, Engle said the Erwin site will become home to PlastiExports' first plant in the U.S. "I know that this investment by a Mexico-based company goes to prove that people across the country and around the world have confidence in Unicoi County and our ability to do business," Engle said.

JECDB Chairman Lee Brown said, "What began as devastating news has turned into an amazing story for manufacturing here in Unicoi County. We're grateful for the opportunity to work with PlastiExports and look forward to helping them have a bright future. Even through the unforeseen economic difficulty caused by the COVID-19 health emergency, all parties worked diligently to deliver the largest industrial investment in Unicoi County in recent years."



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TVA Continues to Support Disaster Relief in Middle Tennessee

The Tennessee Valley Authority is supporting local relief efforts as it continues to repair the transmission system in Middle Tennessee counties hit by devastating tornadoes in early March. TVA and local power companies worked to quickly restore power in areas where power lines, poles and towers were downed. Now TVA has also committed \$100,000 to local relief funds across three affected counties.

“Recognizing there are needs beyond restoration of transmission lines, we wanted to provide funds directly to communities by supporting tornado relief through charities in Putnam, Wilson and Davidson Counties,” said Jeannette Mills, TVA executive vice president and chief external relations officer.

The three counties will receive \$30,000 each. In Wilson County, the funds will be dispersed to charities Rehab 23 and MJ4 Hope; in Putnam County, the Putnam County Tornado Relief Fund; and in Davidson County, Hands On Nashville and The Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee. The remaining \$10,000 will go to the Red Cross Southern Tornadoes and Flood Relief Fund.

In addition to restoring transmission lines, TVA’s Equipment Support Services group provided generators, skid loaders, chainsaws and worker safety equipment. About 45 TVA transmission crew members supported debris clean up in Mt. Juliet, removing more than 25 truckloads of brush, 4 truckloads of metal and 20 truckloads of trash and debris. TVA continues to lend equipment for cleanup across the affected counties.

“Putnam County is very appreciative to TVA for responding to us in our time of need. The EF-4 tornado destroyed almost 300 homes and damaged a total of 700. The storm also left a massive trail of debris across an eight-mile stretch of our county. TVA was there for us and we are forever grateful!” said Putnam County Mayor Randy Porter.

TVA transmission crews expect to repair the last of 38 structures damaged by the tornadoes very soon. Due to the coronavirus pandemic, crews are doing this work in smaller groups. The power system is stable and providing reliable power to the area.



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Sequoyah Unit 2 Completes Refueling and Maintenance Outage

The Tennessee Valley Authority's Sequoyah Nuclear Plant Unit 2 resumed 100% power operations after safely completing a scheduled refueling and maintenance outage. Unit 2 provides enough carbon-free energy to power 650,000 homes.

In addition to replacing 80 of the unit's 193 fuel assemblies, detailed inspections of various systems were conducted to confirm all components are fully able of performing their safety functions. Other major maintenance activities included replacing or refurbishing a number of motors, valves and other plant components, as well as several modifications for improving safety.

Additional safe work practices were established to help protect the health and well-being of employees and supplemental workers in light of COVID-19. Sequoyah took multiple and significant steps, including required health screenings prior to plant entry each day, and increased personal protective equipment required for this outage. "The entire Sequoyah team, supported by our union and contract partners, safely completed over 10,500 work activities during the outage," said Matt Rasmussen, Sequoyah site vice president. "The work we performed together in this outage puts Unit 2 in the best position to continue to operate safely over the next 18-month cycle. Each of our team members takes great pride in the work they do to ensure the plant continues to provide safe, reliable service to the people and businesses of the Tennessee Valley."

This spring, TVA has safely completed scheduled refueling outages at Browns Ferry Unit 3 and Sequoyah Unit 2. Watts Bar Unit 1 is scheduled to begin a refueling outage this weekend. Sequoyah Unit 2 is one of seven operational TVA nuclear reactors across the Valley. Collectively, TVA's nuclear fleet safely and reliably provides nearly 40% of all electricity used by nearly 10 million people in the Tennessee Valley.



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TVA Reopens Most Recreation Areas, Dam Reservation Campgrounds

The majority of Tennessee Valley Authority developed recreation areas and six dam reservation campgrounds have re-opened. The areas were closed in March as part of the overall federal and state response to slowing the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

Seventeen TVA recreation areas are re-opening, while the Pickwick recreation area is only partially re-opening due to ongoing repair work from spring flooding. Four additional recreation areas will remain closed due to maintenance and repair activities unrelated to COVID-19: Kentucky Dam West Bank Road (walk-in access to fishing areas is permitted), Raccoon Mountain, Tellico and the Wilson Dam Rockpile Recreation Area.

Consistent with current federal and state guidance, restroom facilities, large-group pavilions and playgrounds will remain closed in the re-opened recreation areas. In addition, all TVA visitors' centers remain closed.

Visitors are requested to continue to follow physical distancing and other public health guidelines issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention while at TVA's recreation areas.

Managed campgrounds at TVA's Cherokee, Douglas (headwater and tailwater), Melton Hill, Pickwick and Watauga dams opened for the season on May 15th. Recreation Resource Management is responsible for operating these facilities and additional information is available on TVA's campground website.

In coordination with the state of Tennessee and the U.S. Forest Service, TVA is also resuming some recreational releases on the Ocoee River to support commercial whitewater rafting and kayaking.



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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*