

ATVG Spring 2024 Newsletter

TVA to Retire Kingston, Build State-of-the-Art Energy Complex

Published Apr 2, 2024

- Kingston Fossil Plant will become a state-of-the-art energy complex that includes natural gas, solar energy, and battery storage — the first of its kind for TVA.
- The nine-unit Kingston Fossil Plant will retire by the end of 2027.
- Download [audio and video](#) interviews and b-roll.

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. – Following a multi-year public process, the Tennessee Valley Authority has made the decision to retire its Kingston Fossil Plant and build a state-of-the-art energy complex at the site by the end of 2027.

“Kingston is, and has been, a part of the success of this region over the last 70 years,” said TVA President and CEO Jeff Lyash. “Retiring these units and replacing them with technology that is more reliable, more resilient, and cleaner is not an easy decision, but it’s the right thing to do for our energy security going forward.”

TVA will retire the nine coal-fired units at Kingston by the end of 2027. To replace that generation, TVA will build an energy complex that will house at least 1,500 megawatts of combined cycle and dual-fuel Aeroderivative natural gas combustion turbines with 100 megawatts of battery storage and up to 4 megawatts of solar generation at the Kingston location.

This will be a first-of-its-kind facility at TVA. The natural gas generation will be in operation prior to Kingston Fossil Plant retirement to maintain reliable, uninterrupted power to our customers.

The decision follows a public process under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) – a longstanding federal process – which ensures public participation and input is considered during a robust review of all feasible options.

“This is the evolution of our energy system,” said Allen Clare, TVA senior vice president for Power Operations. “This energy complex is the most cost-effective option that offers the flexibility and reliability within the timeline to bring replacement generation online.”

TVA has one of the nation’s largest, most diverse, cleanest energy systems, including nuclear, solar, hydro, gas, and advanced technologies.

TVA’s industry-leading clean energy initiatives include:

- Achieving a 57% reduction in mass carbon emissions from the 2005 level – one of the nation’s largest reductions – while executing a path to an 80% reduction by 2035.
- Adding 10,000 megawatts of solar energy by 2035.

“TVA is a national leader in clean energy, but we know there is more to do,” Lyash said. “Achieving a carbon-free energy future won’t be easy. There is no one answer to achieving our nation’s decarbonization goals.

“The answer to how you go further, faster includes continued expansion of solar and wind energy, developing emerging technologies – energy storage, carbon capture, low-carbon fuels, and advanced nuclear technologies. We are uniquely positioned to lead this critical initiative moving forward.”

The Kingston Fossil Plant is in Roane County, Tennessee. Its nine coal-fired units produced up to a total of 1,398 megawatts of electricity, powering approximately 818,000 homes.

“I’m proud of the Kingston team,” said Jeff Kickert, Kingston plant manager. “We’ve done a tremendous job facing the challenges of increased environmental regulations and the demand for more flexible operation. We’ll continue to do great work, and Kingston will remain an important part of the fleet until its slated retirement.”

As TVA’s generation mix evolves, TVA is committed to supporting employees in the next step in their careers.

“We have a detailed workforce plan in place to maintain coal plant expertise and provide opportunities for employees to evaluate options and prepare for next career steps,” said Kris Edmondson, TVA vice president of Power Operations. “The plan includes opportunities to transfer to other TVA locations where employee skillsets are needed, positions in other technologies offering training to support transition to a new job in TVA, and supporting employees interested in retiring.”

TVA will continue to evaluate the remaining coal fleet for retirement and replacement generation. To reduce operational, economic and environmental risks, TVA is anticipating retiring its entire coal fleet by the mid-2030s to support a clean energy system of the future.

For more information, read [the Record of Decision and other related documents](#) found at tva.com/nepa. Download [audio and video interviews, b-roll and drone video](#).

TVA Presents Classroom Grants to 22 Memphis and Shelby County Schools

Published Mar 28, 2024

- More than 20 schools in Memphis and Shelby County to receive STEM grants of up to \$5,000.
- TVA, MLGW and BVI partner to provide the grants in support of local teachers.

MEMPHIS, TENN. — The Tennessee Valley Authority, Bicentennial Volunteers, Inc. (BVI) – TVA’s retiree association – and Memphis Light, Gas and Water awarded 22 schools across Memphis and Shelby County with STEM grants. The grants ranged from \$1,500 to \$5,000 and were awarded to further support education in environment, energy, economic and career development, and community problem-solving.

The following schools in Memphis and Shelby County were awarded grants:

- STAR Academy Charter School
- Memphis East High School
- Douglass K-8 Optional School
- Ridgeway Middle School
- Berclair Elementary School
- Dexter K-8 School
- Idlewild Elementary School

- Kingsbury High School
- Barret's Chapel School
- Mitchell High School
- White Station High School
- Soulsville Charter School
- E. E. Jeter K-8 School
- Freedom Prep Westwood
- Altruria Elementary School
- Elmore Park Middle School
- Houston High School
- Our Lady of Perpetual Help School
- Lakeland Preparatory School
- Memphis School of Excellence Winchester
- St. George's Independent School
- Woodland Presbyterian School

“TVA is proud to support educators and students who pursue excellence in STEM subjects,” said Mark Yates, TVA regional executive leader. “To build the energy system of the future, we need to invest in our local schools and expose our students to opportunities that are right here in our community. These students are our future workforce, and we need to prepare them to continue innovating for the decades ahead.”

“MLGW values this partnership with TVA and BVI and is excited to see how our local teachers use the grant funds to inspire the next generation of leaders,” said Timothy Davis, MLGW Vice President of Customer Experience and Energy Services. “STEM education promotes the skills and competencies that we look for in employees - critical thinking, problem-solving, perseverance, adaptability, cooperation, organization, and responsibility.”

This year’s program awarded \$1.5 million in grants to schools across the Tennessee Valley. Teachers can apply for funding up to \$5,000 for STEM projects with preference given to applications that explore TVA’s primary area of focus: environment, energy, economic and career development, and community problem-solving.

Eligible applicants are teachers or school administrators in public or private schools, grades K-12. Schools must be in the TVA service area and receive electricity from a local power distributor served by TVA.

Memphis Light, Gas and Water is the largest three-service public power utility in the nation, serving the residents of Memphis and Shelby County, Tennessee since 1939. MLGW consistently provides customers with rates that are amongst the lowest in the nation and stewards a water supply from artesian wells that is minimally treated. Actively engaged in promoting the prosperity of Memphis and Shelby County, MLGW supports the seven local chambers in its service area and makes doing business with local, minority- and women-owned businesses a priority. Deeply rooted in the community, its employees generously donate time and money in support of bettering the Greater Memphis area.

Powering Forward

New Battery Plant Positions North Mississippi for Continued Growth

It's about noon on Thursday in Red Banks, Mississippi.

In the white-trimmed, ruby-red building at North Red Banks Road and state Highway 178, a whiff of succulent brisket hangs in the air, peppered with peals of laughter and lively chatter among diners venturing in for barbecue sandwiches and fried okra.

Bob Marley wails over the radio, though he's interrupted more than once by a ringing phone.

It's yet another to-go order – a sure sign of a steady lunchtime pace inside Clancy's Catfish and Barbecue Cafe.

"We're all family here," says Tyler Clancy, who has co-owned this restaurant with his wife, Lacy, since 2011. "We're a small but diverse community."

Small, but with big things on the horizon.

Red Banks and neighboring towns in Marshall County are undergoing a revitalization, thanks in large part to economic development projects spearheaded by civic and business leaders from Mississippi and the Tennessee Valley Authority.

At the epicenter of this progress is [Chickasaw Trails Industrial Park](#), the future home of a \$1.9 billion facility that will manufacture batteries for the electric vehicle industry and for commercial and industrial uses.

The facility, slated to open in 2027, is a joint venture among [Daimler Truck](#), [Paccar Inc.](#) and the Cummins energy technology company, [Accelera](#).

Once completed, the complex is expected to create more than 2,000 jobs, each paying an average of \$66,000 a year. The annual payroll – about \$132 million – will be the largest payroll commitment in the state's history.

"A lot of changes are coming to this town," Clancy said. "As a business owner, I'm all for it."



Clancy's Cafe is one of many Marshall County businesses that stand to benefit from a \$1.9 billion battery manufacturing facility coming to Chickasaw Trails Industrial Park.

Igniting the Spark

Clancy's Cafe is one of the many north Mississippi businesses that have flourished in the wake of ambitious economic development plans that took root nearly a decade ago.

The momentum around Chickasaw Trails Industrial Park started in 2014 when a Danish building materials manufacturer, Rockwool International, launched operations at the site.

That ignited a spark of growth, with giants like Nike, Asics and Milwaukee Tools rapidly following suit with facilities at the site.

Over the last decade, this translated into approximately 5,500 new jobs and just over \$1.5 billion in capital investments, Justin Hall, executive director at [Marshall County Industrial Development Authority](#), said.

"That's not bad for a community of around 35,000," Hall said.

The 3,600-acre industrial park, near Byhalia, Mississippi, also houses Marshall County's workforce training center, a partnership with [Northwest Mississippi Community College](#) that offers [WIN Job Center services](#), adult education and training for industry jobs.

With the new battery plant, the county stands to enjoy an upward trajectory for years to come.

The industrial park is a vast change from the mostly bucolic landscape in the early 2000s.

"This place was a cow pasture about 18 years ago," said Dwayne Casey, Northwest Mississippi Community College's associate vice president of workforce solutions and career technical education. "And look at where it is now."



A portion of the sprawling Chickasaw Trails Industrial Park in Marshall County, Mississippi.

‘Catalyst for Change’

TVA and its partners set the stage for the new battery manufacturing plant about eight years ago.

[TVA’s Economic Development](#) team and Marshall County Industrial Development Authority scouted possible locations for a large manufacturing facility.

In promoting economic development – a key component of TVA’s mission in the seven-state region – TVA works to advance transformative projects that ensure an outsized impact on local businesses and entrepreneurs.

In 2015, TVA studied more than 19,000 acres in Marshall County, narrowing the search to 500 acres at Chickasaw Trails Industrial Park.

The first order of business: power capacity.

TVA invested \$47 million to build a 161-kilovolt [transmission line](#) reaching the southern portion of the property, increasing the capacity and infrastructure needed for an energy-intensive manufacturing facility.

“Our goal was to attract a large manufacturing facility,” Bill Adams, senior project manager of global business for TVA Economic Development, said. “The ability to deliver a significant amount of power in a timely manner was a key driver in this project.”

With contributions from local, state and federal agencies – including TVA, [Delta Regional Authority](#), [Appalachian Regional Commission](#) and [Mississippi’s Site Development Grant Program](#) – the site received necessary infrastructure improvements, enhancing its marketability.

That meticulous work paid off when Cummins, Daimler and Paccar placed a request for proposal on the property.

In January 2024, Mississippi [legislators then approved](#) a \$482 million incentive package, cementing the investment from Cummins, Daimler and Paccar.

Construction on the 21-gigawatt-hour factory is slated to begin later this year.

“To have a project like this land on this area of Mississippi is truly going to be a catalyst for change,” said Amy Tate, regional executive for TVA’s Southwest Region. “It’s a domino effect that affects these communities in such a positive way. We’ll be seeing this paid forward for generations.”

And while TVA’s Economic Development team is celebrating the grand slam in Marshall County, other joyous innings remain.

“When you get a deal like this, it’s just the beginning,” John Bradley, TVA’s senior vice president of Economic Development, said. “We’ll continue marketing Marshall County. Good sites are not easy to find, and this is truly a good site. We’re just going to continue seeing growth in that area.”



Roley Real, a Marshall County realtor, anticipates an uptick in home ownership as the battery manufacturing facility project gets underway.

New Workers, New Homes

Signs of growth abound.

Entering Marshall County along U.S. Highway 72, the cotton and wheat fields give way to construction trucks, road work and ample hints of good things to come.

“Future Travel Center Coming Soon,” teases one sign. “New Homes Available,” heralds another.

Clancy’s cafe saw its sales jump during the initial economic activity in 2014, when workers from nearby companies began stopping in for meals and box lunches.

That prompted the cafe to hire more employees and invest in a kitchen expansion, paving the way for a growing catering business.

When 2027 rolls around, the cafe will no doubt see additional business from workers at the new manufacturing facility.

Marshall County leaders are boosting the local talent pool by offering industry-specific training at the community college's workforce training center, which in the past three years has already logged a 40% increase in skills-based enrollment.

And over the next three years, more than 900 new homes are slated for construction within a 2-mile radius of the industrial park. With an average housing price of \$260,000 in Byhalia, Mississippi – and the promise of good-paying jobs – local realtors like [Roley Real](#) are preparing for a surge in new residents.

“Many people will become the first in their families to own a home,” Real said. “With homeownership, you boost a sense of community and appreciation for your town. It’s an overall positive.”

Area towns can expect to see an increase in tax revenue for schools and community resources. The uptick in activity could extend into surrounding towns such as Olive Branch and Holly Springs, in Mississippi, and Collierville, in Tennessee.

“We were seeing an increase in dining and retail, even before the battery plant was announced,” Laura Taylor, executive director of [Byhalia Area Chamber Main Street](#), said. “This new development will change our entire socioeconomic landscape.”



Cash Saver grocery proprietor Fred Carlisle anticipates the growth at Chickasaw Trails Industrial Park will benefit residents all throughout Marshall County. "It should be a big boost for us," he said.

'The American Dream'

Cash Saver grocery has been a cornerstone of Holly Springs, Mississippi, since 1963.

Proprietor Fred Carlisle has built a lasting business by understanding his customers' needs and concerns. He greets patrons at the door with a warm smile, an eager handshake and an empathetic ear.

He's seen the community overcome its share of challenges, from tornadoes to severe winter storms to inevitable swings in economic activity.

This new development changes things.

“We've never had a company come in and offer that many jobs at that kind of pay scale for our people,” Carlisle said. “It’s going to be life-changing.

“When people have more money, they’re going to be able to spend more money. I think it's going to open a lot of retail around Marshall County. It should be a big boost for us.”

Alongside that growth comes challenges, so there’s plenty of exciting work ahead.

But as Carlisle and his fellow community members navigate the change, they’re not alone.

TVA and its partners are powering forward with them, arm-in-arm, fulfilling the enterprise’s mission of service in Marshall County and beyond.

“It’s the American Dream,” Bradley said. “I hear stories all the time of people that would never have been able to buy a house or educate their kids if it wasn’t for these types of projects. We have a great team and a very fulfilling job. The work never gets old.”

PHOTO AT TOP OF PAGE: Tyler Clancy, owner of Clancy's Cafe in Red Banks, Mississippi, has seen his business grow thanks to developments at Chickasaw Trails Industrial Park.

Awards Season

TVA Economic Development Brings Home the Gold

With its Site Selection Top Utility award for the 18th consecutive year, TVA's Economic Development has a lot to smile about.

The team has been recognized by Site Selection magazine for its success in working with partners to attract 26,500 new jobs, retain 40,600 jobs, and \$10 billion in capital investment to the Tennessee Valley region in 2022.

And when you look at economic development numbers from the recent past, it becomes clear how TVA is influencing and enabling the economic health and prosperity in the Valley, noted John Bradley, senior vice president of TVA's Economic Development.

During the past five years, the team has brought more than 102,200 new jobs, retained 237,600 jobs and \$45.9 billion in capital investment to TVA's seven-state service area.

That translates into jobs for the more than 10 million people living, working and playing in the Tennessee Valley region.

Say EEEs

Energy, Environmental Stewardship and Economic Development are the three pillars that bring TVA's mission—to make life better for the people of the Valley—to life.

The magazine lauded TVA's efforts, noting that innovation is increasingly important to economic development success.

TVA is working with local power companies to accelerate innovation, especially in promoting electric vehicles and green programs to help both local power companies and consumers.

The team helped attract several automakers to locate manufacturing centers for electric vehicle (EV) production. Those include GM, Nissan, Volkswagen, Mazda-Toyota, and, most recently, Ford. All these automakers are producing EVs, for which there is much demand.

Driving for Success

"We are pleased to have attracted so many players in the EV business," Bradley said. "We are now considered a national hub for electrical vehicle production, which is highly beneficial to consumers, and that points to a prosperous future for the Tennessee Valley."

Renewable energy is also a point of strength for TVA as it Builds the Energy System of the Future.

TVA's recent request for proposals to bring 5,000 MWs of carbon-free energy to the valley by 2029 will help the utility reach its aspirational goal of net zero by 2050. Site Selection magazine noted that this is the biggest clean energy [movement](#) in the nation.

Solar power, too, is a point of strength for TVA.

"Our award-winning Green Invest program leads to cost benefits for companies like Google and Facebook, both of which have locations in the Valley," Bradley said.

Upcoming Events: Summer Meeting 2024

Visit ATVG.ORG for Registration

June 18, Evening Reception, June 19, ATVG Meeting, and June 20, TVA tour

The Marriott Shoals Hotel and Spa (Make your reservation now!)

Marriott Shoals, Florence, AL

(256-246-3600)

ATVG REPORT: A quarterly publication of the Association of Tennessee Valley Governments: P.O. Box 1504 Paris, TN. 38242 Telephone (865) 659-4745 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.