



## ATVG WINTER 2025 NEWSLETTER

# The Megawatt Mission

Dec 30, 2024 TVA.COM

## Winter Readiness Crews Sweat the Small Stuff

A bitter breeze ruffles Norm Flake's vest as his safety-toe boots clang up the steel stairway headed to the top of Unit 1.

It's cold up here.

Among all of Tennessee Valley Authority's 51 gas, hydro and coal plants across seven states, [John Sevier Combined Cycle Plant](#) in the Appalachian foothills of Hawkins County, Tennessee, has been ranked as the No. 1 coldest.

On this day, the temperature at John Sevier is 42 degrees Fahrenheit. The wind chill makes it feel more like 34.

As Flake makes his rounds on a walkway more than 80 feet above the ground, Mike Shenal flags him down.

Shenal points to an array of narrow water pipes blanketed in gray material. These pipes need more insulation, he says.

"That's a good find," Flake responds.

As TVA's program manager for seasonal readiness, Flake loves getting reports like Shenal's. If there's anything that can be done – even a seemingly tiny detail – to better prepare the plant for extreme cold weather, Flake wants to know about it.

It's all about making sure TVA's megawatts are reliable and resilient when temperatures plunge and demand spikes.

The best way to continue meeting customer demand? Keep the megawatts online.

"And that's our mission," Flake said.

## ATVG WINTER 2025 NEWSLETTER



Heat trace technician Mike Shenal, right, makes a recommendation to TVA seasonal readiness program manager Norm Flake.

### Down to 0 Degrees

Throughout the day, Flake checks in on Shenal's team of eight heat-trace specialists, who are going over John Sevier with a fine-tooth comb.

Heat trace circuits are electrical wires strung alongside pipes, valves and other sensitive equipment to prevent freezing. There are more than 30 miles of heat trace – over 15,000 wires – just at TVA's gas plants.

Heat trace is one of the first lines of defense when TVA plant operators like Harold Jobe and Phillip Burnett are working around the clock to keep John Sevier's 871 megawatts of power online – even at 0 degrees Fahrenheit or below.

"The most important thing is that we can stay on when we are needed the most," Jobe, a combined cycle operations technician, said.

### CT Scans and MRIs

Last winter, [TVA carried out more than 2,600 repairs](#) of heat trace wires and insulation across its system.

But this year's efforts take the program to a whole new level.

There are more than 1,000 heat trace wires at John Sevier, and the heat trace team is taking multiple readings on each of them – the amps or strength of the electrical current, the voltage, the resistance and the condition of the insulation. They're also fine-tuning detailed maps of circuits that power the heat trace.



## ATVG WINTER 2025 NEWSLETTER

It takes several weeks to conduct the in-depth checkup and create a map of the plant's 12 refrigerator-size heat trace cabinets, each with about 60 breakers.

And when the team finishes at John Sevier, they'll move on to four of TVA's other large combined cycle plants.

"This year we're looking at heat trace in a whole different way," Flake said. "We're starting to look at circuit health. It has a lifespan. How far down on that lifespan are we?"

"If you think in terms of going to the doctor, last year we went to see, 'Hey, are your bones broken? Any head injuries?' We looked at it from the surface," Flake said.

"This year, it's like we're doing CT scans and MRIs."

### Long-Term Projects

In FY 2024, TVA invested \$430 million to harden its system and enhance the reliability and resilience of its gas, hydro and coal generating fleet.

The results were excellent, Flake said. [TVA's system met record-high demand peaks](#) during the prolonged deep freeze of Winter Storm Heather in January 2024.

But Flake and his colleagues aren't resting on their laurels.

They've completed 417 preventive maintenance work orders to prepare for this winter.

At the same time, they're investing in long-term projects to further harden TVA's system:

- Proactively scheduling replacement of aging heat trace lines and insulation in the coming years.
- Developing a system of smart panels to monitor freeze protection systems in real time, so plant operators in the control room have early warning of potential problems.
- Replacing temporary shelters that protect cold-sensitive equipment with solid-wall enclosures.
- Refining and practicing plant-by-plant cold weather plans.
- Identifying additional high-priority cold-weather upgrades, such as modernizing control air dryers that keep water out of hoses, valves and other critical components.

### Getting Ahead of the Game

At John Sevier, plant operator Jobe said the heat trace crew's work this winter is invaluable.



## ATVG WINTER 2025 NEWSLETTER

“They’re giving me a heads-up, and then I’m following up to get ahead of the game and make sure those circuits don’t trip when it’s cold – because that’s not the time to try to troubleshoot,” Jobe said.

Howie Rose, TVA manager for business continuity, could not agree more. Better preparation enhances resilience and reliability – and it’s also safer for employees.

“If it’s icing and snowing, you really want to minimize the need to be up there climbing around,” Rose said.

One key long-term upgrade – installing smart panels – will put critical data at plant operators’ fingertips, ensuring they can make well-informed decisions.

“If we give operators enough information in time to react, they will be able to ensure the reliability of the asset,” said Larry Sparks, whose team is implementing the program. “We’re able to deliver power even in the most severe of conditions.”

TVA’s winter readiness program is really not much different than what he does as a homeowner to prepare for cold weather, Sparks said.

“I’ve got to make sure the heater’s working. I’ve got to make sure the insulation’s in place. I’ve got to make sure all the cracks and openings get closed up.

“That’s what effectively we’re doing for the plants. We’re ensuring that those systems are all at the highest level of reliability.”

### **TVA Publishes Final Environmental Impact Statement for Proposed New Caledonia Gas Plant in Lowndes County, Mississippi**

Jan 10, 2025 **Contact: Julia Wise**

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. – The Tennessee Valley Authority has prepared the Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to address the potential environmental impacts associated with the proposed construction and operation of a simple cycle combustion turbine (CT) plant on a parcel of TVA-owned land known as the New Caledonia (NCG) Site. More information is available at [tva.com/nepa](http://tva.com/nepa).

The NCG Site is an approximately 63-acre existing parcel of federally owned property managed by TVA in Lowndes County, Mississippi, located 10 miles northeast of Columbus. The New



## ATVG WINTER 2025 NEWSLETTER

Caledonia Site is a former CT facility, originally constructed in 1998 and operated for several years by a private company. The company dismantled the site in 2007, removing the existing six-frame CTs. The study area for the proposed action is 145 acres and includes the entire proposed combustion turbine property as well as the adjacent substation property, which remains in operation. TVA is considering constructing and operating an approximately 500-megawatt combustion turbine facility at the disturbed site of the previous generating facility, which would allow TVA to utilize existing natural gas and transmission infrastructure.

The purpose of this proposed action is to support continued load growth in the Tennessee Valley region. CTs are needed to provide dispatchable generation capacity to ensure that TVA can reliably meet required year-round generation, maximum capacity system demands and planning reserve margin targets and comply with the requirement under the TVA Act that power be sold at rates as low as feasible. Additionally, CTs enable more renewables to be brought onto the system without compromising reliability. TVA released the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on July 15, 2024. The Notice of Availability was published in the Federal Register on July 19, 2024, and public comments were accepted through September 4, 2024. Additionally, TVA hosted an in-person open house on January 8, 2024, in Caledonia, Mississippi. The Record of Decision regarding the New Caledonia Gas Plant is expected to be issued in February 2025.

### **Watts Bar Unit 1 Adds Approximately 24MW of Electricity Through Refueling and Maintenance Outage**

Dec 13, 2024 **Contact: Adam May**

SPRING CITY, Tenn. – The Tennessee Valley Authority’s Watts Bar Nuclear Plant Unit 1 returned to operation on December 10 after the team completing a scheduled refueling and maintenance outage that will add approximately 24 megawatts of electricity to the unit’s typical 1,200MW output. That total generation will help support decades of additional reliable generation of

carbon-free energy. During the outage, the Watts Bar team safely completed more than 12,000 work activities to return the unit to full generating capacity and supply enough energy for at least 650,000 homes.

“The work our team members completed during this outage will allow us to continue to provide safe, reliable, carbon-free electricity for people throughout the Tennessee Valley for the next 18-month operating cycle,” said Chris Reneau, Watts Bar site vice president. “As the region continues to grow at a rapid rate and the need for power grows with it, we’re appreciative that our highly skilled team of TVA, union, and contract partners works safely and with full attention



## ATVG WINTER 2025 NEWSLETTER

to craftsmanship and operational excellence to make the upgrades and enhancements further to improve the reliability of Unit 1 and our plant.”

In addition to replacing 92 of Unit 1’s 193 fuel assemblies, the Watts Bar team performed detailed inspections of reactor components and other plant systems to ensure continued safe operation of all components, replaced or serviced plant equipment, and installed enhancements to help the unit continue safe, reliable operation for years to come. The team attributes the increase in power for Unit 1 to upgrades made during the outage, such as replacing two low-pressure turbine rotors and increasing the cooling tower, condenser, and plant efficiency.

Watts Bar Unit 1 is one of seven operational TVA nuclear reactors across the Valley. TVA’s nuclear fleet safely and reliably provides more than 40% of all electricity generated by TVA. Combined with other parts of TVA’s diverse generation system, nuclear power is the major contributor as the agency works to be net-zero by 2050.

### **TVA Offering Rapid Rebuilding Assistance to Businesses Impacted by Helene**

Dec 11, 2024 **Contact: Tom Satkowiak**

- New TVA EnergyRight program aims to assist rebuilding businesses impacted by Hurricane Helene.
- Incentive funding available to businesses in 22 counties designated by FEMA as disaster areas across East Tennessee, Western North Carolina and Southwest Virginia.
- Replacing damaged equipment with energy efficient components can help lower businesses’ operating costs.

TVA EnergyRight has developed a Rapid Rebuilding Assistance initiative to provide incentives to qualifying businesses in the TVA service area impacted by the Hurricane Helene weather system—or any other events declared as major disasters by FEMA since Sept. 1, 2024.

A total of 22 counties in TVA’s service territory spanning parts of Tennessee, North Carolina and Virginia were designated by FEMA as disaster areas following Helene. That includes Carter, Claiborne, Cocke, Grainger, Greene, Hamblen, Hancock, Hawkins, Jefferson, Johnson, Sevier, Sullivan, Unicoi, and Washington counties in Tennessee; Avery, Cherokee, Clay and Watauga counties in North Carolina; and Lee, Scott, Washington and Wise counties in Virginia.



## ATVG WINTER 2025 NEWSLETTER

Through the TVA EnergyRight Rapid Rebuilding Assistance program, projects to replace damaged technologies and appliances undertaken by eligible businesses in those counties will be expedited so customers can receive critical funds for efficient replacement of lighting (\$0.10 per kWh), HVAC (\$80-\$250 per ton) and refrigeration (\$100-\$200 per linear foot of reach-in cases) equipment in their facilities.

“As businesses in these communities start the process of rebuilding, we want to support them so they can invest in equipment that will save energy and lower their operating cost over the long term,” said Monika Beckner, vice president, TVA Energy Services & Programs. “By investing in energy efficiency, we can build a better tomorrow together.”

Eligibility requirements are as follows:

- Impacted businesses or industries must be located in a FEMA-declared disaster county in TVA’s service area completing qualifying projects on or after the FEMA-declared disaster date of Sept. 1, 2024.
- The incentive application must be received within 24 months of the FEMA-declared date.
- Purchased equipment must meet minimum efficiency requirements.
- Provide invoices, specification sheets and proof of event insurance claim.

Eligible businesses can receive assistance with the program application and identification of contractors. There are no pre-inspections required. Equipment ordered and installed after the disaster and prior to Rapid Rebuilding Assistance application approval is covered. Incentives are paid by check upon project completion.

Interested business owners are encouraged to visit [energyright.com](https://energyright.com), email [TVAbusinessincentive@tva.gov](mailto:TVAbusinessincentive@tva.gov) or call 866-233-0450.

TVA EnergyRight also offers residential energy rebates for homeowners in need of efficient upgrades. Find out more by visiting [EnergyRight.com/rebates](https://EnergyRight.com/rebates).

## **TVA Announces Sumner County Proposed Transmission Route Location**

Nov 21, 2024 Contact: Scott Fiedler

- The new transmission line would support reliable, clean energy and growth.
- Public feedback led to the selection of the preferred route.
- TVA will meet with property owners, and survey work is expected to begin in winter 2024-2025.



## ATVG WINTER 2025 NEWSLETTER

GALLATIN, Tenn. – The Tennessee Valley Authority has identified a preferred location for a new transmission line in Sumner County that would prepare for growth, increase power reliability, and help provide cleaner energy. The selected route is expected to have the least impact on the area, based on public input from the in-person open house and virtual open house and additional evaluation of other factors, including social, environmental and engineering impacts. A National Environmental Policy Act review is also pending.

TVA's new power line will begin at the Gallatin Primary-North Gallatin Transmission Line near Dobbins Pike and Wallace Road and then extend west/southwest to Gallatin Department of Electricity's new 109 North Substation to be located near the intersection of West Albert Gallatin Avenue and Highway 109. The project would be less than 4 miles and built using primarily single-pole, steel structures on existing and new 100-foot-wide right of way.

An open house was held in Gallatin on May 23, 2024, and a virtual open house held from May 23 through June 24, 2024.

TVA will meet with property owners along the right of way to obtain easements for construction, operation, and maintenance of the line. Property owners would still own the property and be compensated for the easements at fair market value.

TVA is expected to begin surveys in winter 2024-2025 and start acquiring easements in spring 2025. Construction is scheduled to begin in summer-fall 2025 and be completed in winter 2025-2026. A map of the project and additional information are available on the TVA website at [tva.com/transmissionprojects](https://tva.com/transmissionprojects).

TVA reports the region is growing three times faster than the national average and the [University of Tennessee's Baker School projects](#) our region's population to grow 22% by 2050. To support this growth on a local level, TVA is investing \$2.8 billion to strengthen the power grid across its service area through 2027. With nearly 60% of TVA's energy already carbon-free, these power grid improvements will help ensure the region's energy security as the agency provides reliable, affordable, resilient, and clean energy.

To help homeowners and businesses save money on their energy bills, learn more about how TVA is offering rebates and incentives at [energyright.com/rebates](https://energyright.com/rebates).





## ATVG WINTER 2025 NEWSLETTER

### New Membership

ATVG would like to welcome our newest members!

Chase Bristow ACRA  
Commercial Risk Advisor  
(865) 562-4230 (ext. 105)

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Wold Architects and Engineers  
Kyle Dunn  
214 Centerview Drive, Suite 300  
Brentwood, TN 37027  
t 615 370 8500 | [www.woldae.com](http://www.woldae.com)

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Shelby County Government  
Dr. LaSonya Hall, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer  
160 N. Main, Suite 1100  
Memphis, TN 38103  
Phone: [\(901\) 222-2200](tel:9012222200)

### New ATVG Mailing Address

ATVG recently changed our mailing address due to the recent change in the ATVG membership coordinator.. **Please note the new ATVG mailing address is now ATVG, PO Box 1504, Paris, TN 38242.**



## ATVG WINTER 2025 NEWSLETTER

***All articles/photo's are taken from TVA.com as part of their Public Information News Room.***

*Make plans now for our upcoming ATVG Spring Meeting at Mammoth Cave National Park on March 5, 2025. Make your reservations now!*

*Visit [ATVG.ORG](https://www.atvg.org) for latest news and association information*



# ATVG WINTER 2025 NEWSLETTER

## *ATVG Spring Meeting Registration*

March 5, 2025

The Lodge at Mammoth Cave  
Mammoth Cave National Park  
1 Mammoth Cave Parkway  
Mammoth Cave, KY 42259  
Telephone: 270-451-2283

All rooms are blocked off March 4 and 5. Ask for the ATVG Rooms. Government Room Rate applies.

11:00 AM- ATVG Board Meeting

Noon- Group Lunch (Spouses Welcome)

1:00 PM- Welcome- ATVG President, Judge Executive Scott Lindsey, Edmonson County, KY

- TVA Update
- More to be Announced

6:30 PM- Dinner

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](mailto:registration@atvg.org) or by U.S. mail to ATVG, PO Box 1504, Paris, TN 38242

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### Association of Tennessee Valley Governments Meeting Registration Form

*Registration Fee: \$175.00 for members and affiliates; \$300.00 for non-members*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

*Registration Fee for spouse Is Included/No additional charge*

Company/Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Full Address: \_\_\_\_\_