



Fact Sheet

Watts Bar Nuclear Plant

Along with continued operation of Unit 1, the safe and high quality completion of Watts Bar Unit 2 is an integral part of achieving TVA's energy goals as set out in the Integrated Resource Plan. Watts Bar Unit 2 remains a cost-effective solution to supply TVA's base load requirements with clean energy at a competitive rate.

Background

The solid performance of Watts Bar 1 since 1996 provides the confidence that the completion and operation of Unit 2 will better use the site's infrastructure, equipment and personnel to support the continuing role that TVA plays in powering the Valley, supporting the creation of new jobs and contributing to the quality of life in our seven-state region.

Key points

- In keeping with its Integrated Resource Plan, TVA is moving toward a more balanced mix of energy sources, with nuclear energy playing an increasing role to provide a low-cost, clean source of base load electricity
- For TVA to provide the energy that will fuel the jobs, the businesses and the homes across the Tennessee Valley, the reliable operation of Watts Bar Unit 2 and our other nuclear facilities is important.
- Even with higher cost and longer construction time than originally planned, Unit 2 at Watts Bar will be a cost-competitive, reliable and safe generation source.

Other information

- Watts Bar 1 began operation in 1996 becoming the last commercial nuclear unit in the United States to come online in the 20th century.
- The unit has produced more than 136 billion kilowatt-hours of electricity -- or approximately 93 percent of its total electrical generating capacity --since commercial operation began nearly 17 years ago.
- TVA estimates Watts Bar Unit 2 could help TVA avoid coal-fired emissions of 6 million to 8 million tons of carbon dioxide a year.
- In 2007, TVA determined that completing Watts Bar Unit 2 offered the best "levelized all-in cost of generating options" when compared to other nuclear, coal and natural gas alternatives.
- Even with the increased cost and longer construction schedule as determined by the 2012 estimate to complete, completion of Watts Bar Unit 2 will allow clean electricity production at rates well below the average wholesale price, lowering overall costs to customers.
- More than 1100 TVA employees currently work at the Watts Bar site, maintaining the highest standards of safety and quality on both the operational Unit 1 and Unit 2 construction project, with an annual payroll of approximately \$90.7 million.
- In the early months of 2012, approximately 2,400 - 2,600 contractors have been working to support construction of Unit 2 and about 290 additional permanent positions were added to support the eventual two-unit operation of the plant.