

TVA TODAY - capacity

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TVA Leads Nation in Power Production, Improves Productivity

TVA generated more electricity than any other utility in the United States during 1998 while at the same time improving its capacity factor - a measure of productivity of its power plants - by 23 percent, according to data released last week.

Resource Data International, a Boulder, Colo.-based firm that provides energy data and market information to the energy industry, released the rankings of the nation's 100 largest generating utilities. The rankings are in the October issue of Electric Light & Power, a national trade magazine for the electric-utility industry.

TVA generated 155.5 million megawatt-hours of electricity in 1998, almost 60 percent more than that generated by the second-largest utility - Texas Utilities Electric Co. TVA's system-wide capacity factor, which measures the amount of power generated compared with the maximum possible, increased from 57 percent in 1997 to more than 70 percent in 1998. TVA also ranked as the second-largest generator of nuclear power, producing more than 44 million Mwh during 1998.

"The significant improvement in the productivity of TVA's power plants is evidence that steps we've taken to strengthen the TVA power system and make it one of the top performers in the nation are paying off," says Chairman Crowell. "Our employees and management team continue to strive for excellence as we prepare for a restructured industry and the challenges of the next century."

TVA has added about 2,700 megawatts of generating capacity and 1,400 megawatts in option-purchase agreements to meet the increasing power demand in the Tennessee Valley. The addition of another 2,400 megawatts is planned over the next few years.

Crowell has requested a comprehensive review of TVA's long-range plans to meet the region's power needs in the 21st century. The review is expected to be completed by the end of the year.

"We can be proud that strong economic growth in the Tennessee valley is a major factor in the growing demand for TVA power," Crowell says. "But as energy needs grow, so must TVA's ability to meet those needs."

Commonwealth Edison of Chicago was the largest generator of nuclear power in 1998 with 53.9 million Mwh. In addition to TVA and Texas Utilities, the other top 10 electricity generators overall were Bonneville Power Administration, Commonwealth Edison, Duke Energy Corp., Florida Power & Light, Georgia Power, Alabama Power, Virginia Electric & Power and Reliant Energy HL&P.