

TVA and Memphis

1930

Nov. 6, 1934

Memphians vote to authorize a bond issue to acquire or construct an electric-distribution system. Bond issue passes 32,623 to 1,858.

January 1937

To commemorate the vote, Memphis names a street in north Memphis near the intersection of Thomas and White as “November 6th Street.”

January 28, 1937

The greatest flood in U.S. history strikes the Ohio and Mississippi River Valleys in January 1937. Tennessee Valley Authority sets up a 10-acre Memphis base for flood relief and provides supplies and equipment, such as cranes, boats, and portable electric lights, to be used in cooperation with the Red Cross.

June 1, 1938

Date of Initial TVA service to Memphis.

May 10, 1939

TVA and the City of Memphis jointly purchase Memphis Power & Light Company properties in and around the City of Memphis—TVA paid \$2.1 million of the \$17.3-million price.

June 28, 1939

TVA acquires and begins operation of over 63 miles of transmission lines and 37,500 kilovolt-ampere of substation capacity in the Memphis area. These facilities include the North and South Memphis Substations as well as transmission lines connecting with facilities acquired from the West Tennessee Power and Light Company.

1940

December 1941

TVA, alongside International Harvester and other corporations, exhibits our work in energy, environmental stewardship, and economic development at an industrial fair in Memphis.

1950

August 6, 1956

To provide its own power, the City of Memphis begins construction of the 750 megawatt Allen Steam Plant.

June 1, 1958

Memphis leaves the TVA power system.

May 22, 1959

Allen's first unit begins commercial operation, providing about half of the city's power requirements. Memphis buys the remainder of its needs from TVA.

1960

Fiscal Year 1962 (July 1, 1961 – June 30, 1962)

During the fiscal year, TVA and Memphis discuss the resumption by the city of the distribution of TVA power.

January 1, 1965

The Memphis municipal electric system returns to the TVA system, becoming the largest distributor of TVA power and saving MLGW customers \$10 million a year through lower rates. The city leases Allen Steam Plant to TVA.

April 3, 1965

Installation begins of the first of four giant 500-kilovolt transformers that will dispatch electricity over TVA's new \$30 million, 150-mile transmission line from Johnsonville to Cordova. The line is pressed into service immediately to supply power to Memphis.

1965

TVA retires the 4th Street steam plant it leased from Memphis in 1939 and acquired in 1950.

1970

1980

October 12 – 23, 1983

The Valley Adventure barge—TVA's 50th anniversary exhibit—travels through four states and on four rivers to bring the celebration to 23 communities with the final stop, lasting 12 days, at Memphis.

1984

TVA purchases Allen Fossil Plant.

June 1989

TVA helps MLGW celebrate its 50th anniversary by providing a page of best wishes in a special section of the Commercial Appeal.

1990

2000

Nov. 5, 2003

The Tennessee Valley Authority approves a \$1.5 billion contract to pre-sell electricity to Memphis Light, Gas & Water for the next 15 years at a discounted rate. The agreement allows TVA to raise cash and saves MLGW customers about \$15 million a year.

May 2009

The Allen Plant's Fossil Fueled Porkers BBQ Team competes in the Memphis in May World Championship Barbeque Cooking Contest. The Porkers have finished in the top 10 numerous times. The team also cooks for many organizations around Memphis, such as Martha's Manor, Ronald McDonald House and Habitat for Humanity.

2010

May 2013

TVA pilots the energy conservation program eScore in Memphis, leveraging \$19.8 million in investment and providing some 3,700 homeowners with \$900,000 in incentive rebates.

August 21, 2014

The TVA Board of Directors decides to replace Allen Fossil Plant with a combined-cycle natural gas facility.

June 2017

TVA completes a 1 megawatt solar facility adjacent to the Allen Natural Gas Plant, bringing clean renewable energy to Memphis.

April 2018

Allen Combined Cycle Plant begins supplying power to the grid. The plant has two of the world's largest and most efficient turbines that run on natural gas, with a generating capacity of about 330 megawatts each. The site also has a combustion steam turbine with about 420 megawatts of capacity, enabling total plant capacity to reach over 1,100 megawatts—enough power to supply more than a half million homes.

June 2018

TVA retires the three coal units at Allen Fossil Plant.

July 2019

In partnership with Mid-South Food Bank, TVA launches a Healthy School Pantry Program.

November 2019

TVA completes 350th home in Memphis through Home Uplift Program and launches mobile weatherization training lab.

2020

May 2020

TVA begins weatherization program to assist Shelby County Schools

2020

TVA extends Pandemic Relief Credits to local power companies, due to COVID-19.