

NUCLEAR POWER IN TENNESSEE

Nuclear power generation, and its implication for life in the Tennessee Valley, is currently in the news. Some of the developments planned for Tennessee include:

- Two Pressurized Water Reactors (PWR), Sequoyah #1 and #2, are being built north of Chattanooga for operation in 1975.
- Two PWR's are being built near Watts Bar Dam near Spring City slated for 1978 and 1979 completion.
- The completion of the demonstration Liquid Metal Fast Breeder Reactor (LMFBR) is planned by 1980 on the Clinch River near Oak Ridge.
- TVA has selected two sites on the Duck River near Columbia and one near the mouth of the Duck River, for consideration as nuclear power plant sites upstream of Nashville's water supply.
- TVA purchased land on the Holston River near Rogersville at the time potential LMFBR sites in Tennessee were under consideration.
- ORNL serves as a storage site for some high energy wastes and it has been proposed to utilize ORNL as a major storage site in the future.
- Exxon has suggested an intention to build a high-capacity nuclear fuel "reprocessing" plant in Loudon County for 1980 utilization.

Concern about the safety of nuclear reactors has prompted environmentally concerned groups of Tennessee to appeal to the legislature of Tennessee to introduce a bill similar to that currently under consideration in California and in several other states. The bill would require that no nuclear plant be constructed until:

1. the plant and the citizens are fully insurable against accidents, and
2. the legislature has received evidence that current storage of high level waste problems have been completely resolved.

The proposal has been presented to Governor Dunn on Jun 24, 1974 with petitions supporting such legislation indicating the degree of public interest in such a moratorium.