



Tennessee Valley Authority

Visitor Center:

Open Monday–Friday  
except major holidays

9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.


TVA is proud of Kentucky Dam and the multiple benefits it provides to local and regional residents, including flood control and recreation opportunities. Enjoy your visit, and thank you for taking the time to learn more about TVA power plants. Also visit [www.tva.com](http://www.tva.com) for further information about the Tennessee Valley Authority, including annual and environmental reports, events, history, and facilities.

For alternate formats of this document,  
call 865-632-6824 and allow five working  
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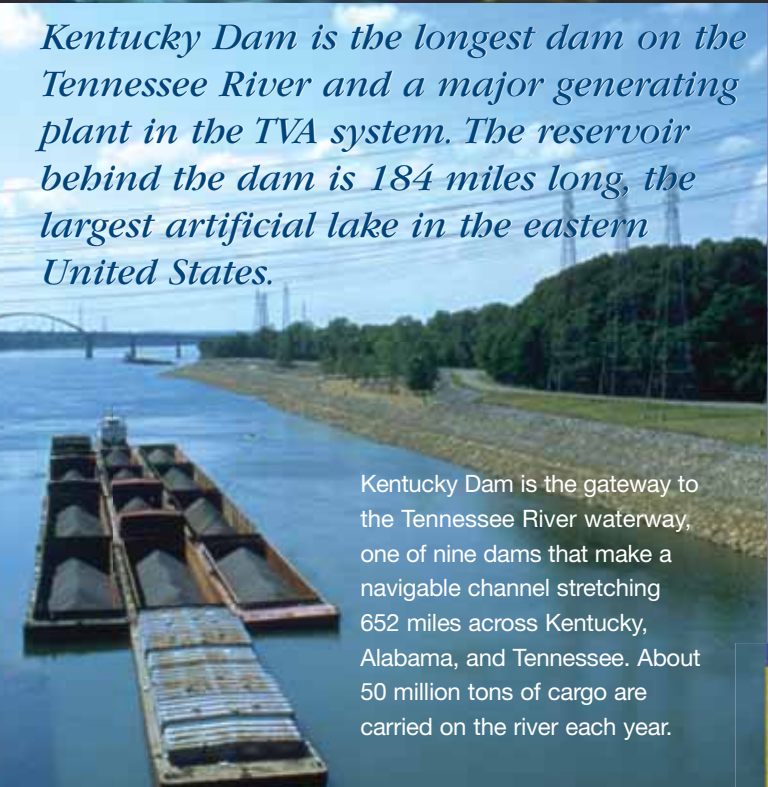
# Kentucky





# At 8,422 feet

*Kentucky Dam is the longest dam on the Tennessee River and a major generating plant in the TVA system. The reservoir behind the dam is 184 miles long, the largest artificial lake in the eastern United States.*



Kentucky Dam is the gateway to the Tennessee River waterway, one of nine dams that make a navigable channel stretching 652 miles across Kentucky, Alabama, and Tennessee. About 50 million tons of cargo are carried on the river each year.

- Dam height** 206 feet
- Dam length** 8,422 feet
- Reservoir length** 184 miles
- Power capacity** 5 units supplying 199 megawatts
- Built** 1938-44



Building Kentucky Dam

## How is hydroelectric power generated?

A hydropower plant consists of a dam and powerhouse. The dam serves to hold back the water in the reservoir, and the powerhouse encloses the turbines and generators that produce electricity. When power is needed, water is released from the reservoir through a large pipe called a penstock and into a turbine. The force of the water spins the blades of the turbine, which is connected to a generator that spins, producing electricity. After passing through the turbine, the water reenters the river on the downstream side of the dam.



Hydroelectric Dam



Lock



Visitor Center



Restrooms

