

## Tennessee Infrastructure In The News

April 29, 2010

### A daily roundup of recent news stories and opinion pieces about Tennessee transportation, water and flood control infrastructure

For the full story, click the headline or use the link.

#### [New Rock Slide On Ocoee Gorge Misses Highway \(Associated Press\)](#)

More rocks have tumbled in the Ocoee River Gorge, but this time they didn't affect U.S. 64. The Chattanooga Times Free Press reported the rock slide Wednesday morning did take out about 70 feet of a flume that carries river water to a TVA hydroelectric generating station. Tennessee Valley Authority spokesman Mike Bradley said it would have minimal effect on power generation. The slide was on the opposite side of the gorge from where a similar event on Nov. 10 shut down U.S. 64 until April 14.

<http://content.usatoday.net/dist/custom/gci/InsidePage.aspx?cld=tennessean&sParam=33394079.story>

#### [Slide Slams Water Flume \(Chattanooga Times Free-Press/Sohn\)](#)

The Ocoee Gorge sprang a spectacular waterfall Wednesday morning when a new rock slide took out 60 to 70 feet of TVA's historic Ocoee flume system. Unlike a slide last fall that closed U.S. Highway 64 across the river gorge and several miles upstream, this slide probably won't cause detours affecting the region's reeling rafting business. "With the flume down, they may get some additional rafting days," said Tennessee Valley Authority spokesman Travis Brickey. "Our engineers and geologists are making assessments now, and the geologists could say the rocks up there are too unstable for anyone to be rafting below. But there will definitely be more water (in the river.)" TVA officials said there were no injuries, and Mr. Brickey said the agency expects minimal impacts to electric power generation. The Ocoee Flume, built in 1912, diverts water from the river several days a week and carries it by gravity to sudden drop points above a powerhouse that uses the force of the falling water to make electricity. When the flumes are running to make power, the river is dry.

<http://www.timesfreepress.com/news/2010/apr/29/slide-slams-water-flume/>

#### [Rockslide Damages Flume That Feeds Ocoee Powerhouse \(News-Sentinel\)](#)

A 60- to 70-foot section of a historic flume that carries water to the Ocoee 2 powerhouse near the Ocoee River in Polk County was destroyed Wednesday in a rockslide. Until the flume is repaired, TVA said it will lose the ability to generate 23 megawatts of power at the powerhouse. No one was injured in the slide. U.S. Highway 64, which runs along the river, was not affected. The section of the flume, or trough, was wiped out about a mile above the powerhouse about 9 a.m. Wednesday. The flume carries water from the Ocoee No. 2 dam to a bluff five miles downstream, according to TVA. The water then travels through two pipes to the No. 2 powerhouse, creating power. The flume originally was built in 1912 and measures 14 feet by 12 feet. According to TVA, after talk emerged of dismantling the flume in the 1970s, it was rebuilt with treated wood and returned to operation in 1983. The flume is on the National Register of Historic Places. Some parts are visible from Highway 64.

<http://www.knoxnews.com/news/2010/apr/29/rockslide-damages-flume/>

#### [Part Of TVA Dam Destroyed In Wed. Morning E. Tenn. Rock Slide \(WVLT-TV Knoxville\)](#)

Another rock slide East Tennessee has destroyed part of a Tennessee Valley Authority hydroelectric dam. It happened around 9:00 a.m. Wednesday at the Ocoee #2 Dam in Polk County. TVA officials confirm the rocks landed on a 70 foot section of the dam's flume. The flume was built in 1912 and is a 14 foot deep, 12 foot wide wooden trough used to carry water from the dam to its powerhouses five miles away. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. It is unclear how long it will take to repair the destroyed section of the flume. Until the repair work is complete, TVA will be unable to generate the 23 megawatts of electricity Ocoee #2 normally supplies. That's enough to power more than 11,000 homes. Ocoee #3 is expected to pick up most of the slack.

<http://www.volunteertv.com/news/headlines/92388629.html>

**[Sen. Alexander Requests Over \\$252M In Federal Funding For TN Projects \(WBIR\)](#)**

Sen. Lamar Alexander has asked for 54 projects in Tennessee costing more than \$252 million be included in next year's federal budget, according to disclosures completed on Tuesday. Here's a sampling of projects in Middle Tennessee and beyond...

<http://www.wbir.com/news/local/story.aspx?storyid=120175&catid=2>

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