

Environotes from TVA

By John E. Culp

THE REDIRECTION process at the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) has been completed. The new vision for TVA's National Environmental Research Center (NERC) at Muscle Shoals, AL, is to achieve world-class status as a Center that produces state-of-the-art technologies and practices.

"TVA will help lead the nation's utilities in environmental performance," said NERC Vice President and Senior Scientist Ronald L. Ritschard. "Our focus will be on environmental business and that includes agriculture."

NERC will conduct research, development, and technology transfer in five areas: Atmospheric Sciences, Agricultural Research and Practices, Waste Management and Remediation, Biotechnology and Environmental Site Remediation.

Several major activities will be emphasized under each area. Highlights include the following:

- **Atmospheric Sciences.** Solutions to air quality problems will be a key objective. Staff will work with state and local issues and enter into partnerships with public and private organizations.
- **Agricultural Research and Practices.** Pollution prevention strategies in nutrients, pesticides, and animal wastes will be key areas. The Center will explore alternative agricultural practices that protect the environment and develop technology for using wastes and by-products.
- **Waste Management and Remediation.** Wastewater cleanup technologies will be developed and introduced. The Center will also develop

waste management and remediation technologies and new chemical/radiochemical measurement methods.

- **Biotechnology.** Bioremediation and biotreatment technologies for waste treatment will be developed. Bioconversion technologies and biochemical solution to waste problems will also be investigated.
- **Environmental Site Remediation.** Cleanup of the NERC plant site will be a priority. The Center will also provide hazardous waste management services and environmental and chemical process expertise to public and private organizations.

In addition to announcing the new directions at TVA's NERC, Ritschard also has put a new management team in place. They include:

Department	Manager
Atmospheric Sciences	Jim Meagher
Agricultural Research and Practices	Ron Williams
Waste Management and Remediation	Tim Jones
Biotechnology	Harold Speidel
Environmental Site Remediation	Ron Kirkland
Technology Transfer	Linda Cournoyer
Support Services	John Blackwell

"The technologies and practices that our staff develops at the Center can help TVA, the region, and the nation achieve sustained agricultural and economic development in an environmentally acceptable way," said Ritschard. "In striving to meet this objective, we'll seek other public and private partners to assure a cost-effective return on the public investment in TVA." ■

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