



Nickajack Reservoir

Ecological health rating

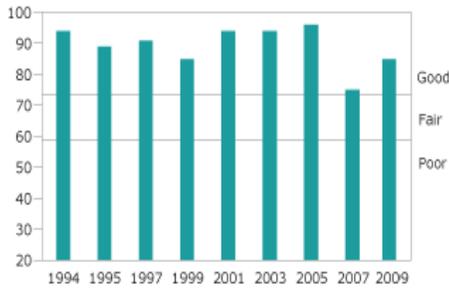
As in previous years, Nickajack Reservoir rated good in 2009. The ecological health score for Nickajack has consistently been among the highest of all the reservoirs monitored by TVA. Nickajack is a small, narrow reservoir with a short retention time. It usually takes only three or four days for water to flow through the reservoir, which helps keep the water mixed, preventing it from stratifying (separating into layers of different temperatures) during the summer. This allows oxygen in the lower water column to be replenished and limits algal growth, thereby reducing chlorophyll concentrations.



Nickajack Reservoir is located on the Tennessee River below Chattanooga in southeastern Tennessee.

TVA monitors two locations on Nickajack Reservoir—the deep, still water near the dam, called the forebay, and the riverlike area at the extreme upper end of the reservoir, called the inflow—usually on a two-year cycle.

Nickajack Reservoir Ecological Health Ratings, 1994-2009



Click chart for raw data.

The table below shows the ratings for individual ecological health indicators at Nickajack in 2009. These ratings are briefly explained in the paragraphs that follow.

Ecological Health Indicators at Nickajack Reservoir, 2009

Monitoring locations	Dissolved oxygen	Chlorophyll	Fish	Bottom life	Sediment
Forebay	Good	Good	Fair	Good	Good
Inflow			Good	Good	

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