

November 6, 2014

TVA Board of Directors
Chairman Joe Ritch
William B. Sansom Marilyn A. Brown
Barbara S. Haskew Richard Howorth
Lynn Evans Peter Mahurin
Michael McWherter
Tennessee Valley Authority
board@tva.gov

Re: Incomprehensible Choices of TVA Directors

Dear Directors:

We find it a sad necessity to respond to your incomprehensible choice during last quarter's meeting to reduce your investment in Energy Efficiency by 25%. We have summarized much relevant research for you over the last few years about Sustainable Energy, in hopes the TVA Board of Directors would make informed, intelligent decisions and lead our nation away from the dirty power choices of nuclear and coal toward truthfully clean energy independence. We have presented you with solid, definitive studies showing why Energy Efficiency is the best choice for replacing carbon-producing energy sources.

As shown by the data, it is an established fact that Energy Efficiency is seven times more cost-efficient than nuclear power¹ – yet you continue to build extremely expensive, antiquated nuclear power plants with no solution for dealing with its highly toxic waste – radioactive waste which will continue to contaminate our valley for thousands of years. It is also an established fact that Energy Efficiency creates considerably more jobs for our population than nuclear power can possibly provide.

Your dogged pursuit of nuclear, despite the economic and environmental facts, simply defies logic – unless your purpose as a non-profit government corporation is actually to provide contracts for select for-profit corporations. Another established fact is that the nuclear power industry cannot sustain itself, and would have collapsed financially long ago without major tax-payer subsidies and loan guarantees, which have been keeping nuclear afloat for decades.

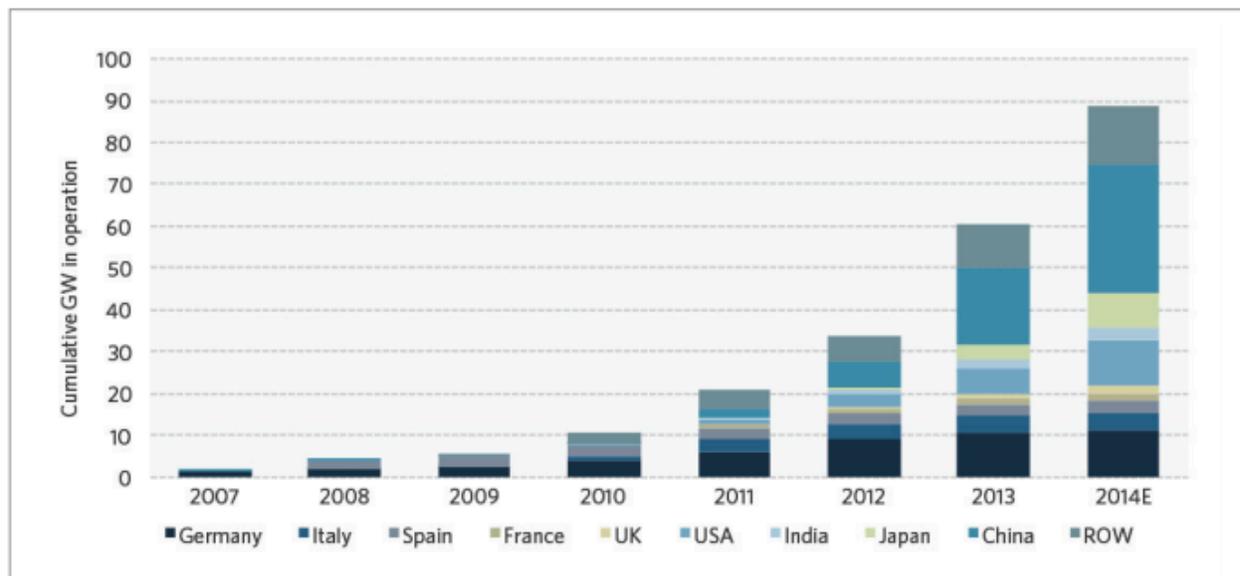
We ask that you provide Tennessee Valley residents and national taxpayers an explanation for your choice to move TVA backwards into nuclear when the civilized world is moving towards non-polluting, sustainable energy choices.

Please note this illustration from a new GTM Research study on global operation of photovoltaic solar power since 2007. China and India are leading and Germany is rapidly replacing nuclear power with sustainable energy choices. It should be noted 1) that Germany has made the choice to end its production of nuclear power and subsequent radioactive waste largely due to its indisputably accurate and well designed, case-controlled KiKK study, which showed a doubling of the risk of leukemia cancer for

¹ Benjamin A. Sovacool, et al. "Comment on 'Prevented Mortality and Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Historical and Projected Nuclear Power'," American Chemical Society, May 22, 2013.
<http://pubs.acs.org/doi/abs/10.1021/es401667h> | Environ. Sci. Technol. 2013, 47, 6715– 6717

children living within 5 km of all 16 German nuclear power plants;² and 2), the vote to move away from nuclear was made while the country was led by an accomplished scientist in chemistry and physics, Prime Minister Angela Merkel. That said, please note this global trend in solar energy production which has now reached nearly 90 GW of MW-scale electrical generating capacity in major developed countries.³

Cumulative Global Megawatt-Scale PV O&M Market 2007-2014 (GW)



Source: GTM Research and SoliChamba Consulting

Once again, we point out that we are living in America’s sunbelt, and we ask why, as a non-profit governmental corporation, you are not fulfilling your mandate to lead the nation in energy innovation. Certainly, every person on this board knows that global warming is a fact that must be dealt with swiftly, if we are to survive as a species. We have provided you strong research showing why nuclear power is not an answer for carbon reduction, and why Energy Efficiency choices are economically sound and sustainable for the future of the Tennessee Valley. Your response has been disappointing.

It was indeed refreshing to have your globally recognized expert on Energy Efficiency, TVA Director Marilyn A. Brown, publicly discuss that option during the last board meeting, but this was overshadowed by the Board’s unanimous vote to decrease your commitment to Energy Efficiency.

Please reconsider your choices for our future and lead this country away from dirty nuclear and coal toward Energy Efficiency and Sustainable Renewable Energy Sources.

Respectfully,
 Gretel Johnston
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² Federal Office of Radiological Protection [Germany], “Concluding Statement on the Epidemiological Study on Childhood Cancer in the Vicinity of Nuclear Power Plants - KiKK Study,” September 2009. http://www.bfs.de/en/kerntechnik/kinderkrebs/statement_kikk_en.pdf

³ GTM Research, 2014, <http://www.greentechmedia.com/research/report/megawatt-scale-pv-om-and-asset-management-2014-2018>)