



Bellefonte Efficiency & Sustainability Team

B.E.S.T.

A local chapter of Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League



February 11, 2012

TVA Directors

Chairman William B. Sansom
Barbara S. Haskew Neil McBride
Richard Howorth Lynn Evans
Michael McWerter Joe Ritch
Peter Mahurin

Tennessee Valley Authority

board@tva.gov

re: Sustainable and safe energy choices

Dear Directors,

We welcome the four new TVA board members and extend our wishes that your terms prove fruitful for you and will guide TVA toward leadership for our nation in sustainable and safe energy, bringing energy efficiency and renewable jobs to the communities you serve.

Our Tennessee River Valley not only benefits from the beauty and outpourings of the Appalachian mountains, but we are also in our nation's Sunbelt. Last year's federal report on renewable energy states that Tennessee alone has the technical potential of generating well over 2 million GWh of utility scale solar power.¹ Solar power and energy efficiency can translate into a plethora of high tech industries as well as construction jobs in our valley; and solar can provide peak and backup power for TVA plants, security for our grid, cleaner air, with no toxic radiation emissions and highly radioactive stockpiles in our local communities.

We applaud TVA for raising your 2020 energy efficiency goal from 1% to 6%; but this is still below the national average.² If you double that efficiency goal, you would save 23,000 to 28,000 GWh, and thereby eliminate your need to expand generation, which TVA estimates at 22,000 GWh.³ We ask you to do a cost analysis comparing an energy efficiency program (preferably the successful one former Chairman David Freeman implemented) to the costs of your nuclear power projects. The savings could allow TVA to pay down your debt, and end your need to sell TVA assets to finance nuclear expansions. It would also mean hundreds of thousands of jobs could be generated in our valley, to benefit homeowners and provide truthfully clean and secure electricity to our people.^{4,5}

The Department of Energy's SunShot Vision study of 2012 predicts a 75% drop in solar energy costs between 2010 and 2020.⁶ The economics are overwhelming in showing that energy efficiency and renewables are sound financial investments for the future of our valley, whereas nuclear power gambles both our finances⁷ and the future health of our environment and our people, since there is no safe dose exposure to TVA's routine radioactive emissions⁸. The financial, as well as human and environmental, liabilities of nuclear power can no longer be justified – now that modern technologies for clean, non-toxic and sustainable energy are not only less expensive, but reduce our nation's dependency on toxic uranium and fossil fuels.^{9,10,11}

We hope you will lead us toward healthy energy choices for future generations. Thank you for your service and your consideration of our concerns.

Sincerely,

Gretel Johnston for BEST/MATRR

best@matrr.org

Bellefonte Efficiency & Sustainability Team (BEST)
Mothers Against Tennessee River Radiation (MATRR)

References:

¹ Anthony Lopez, Billy Roberts, Donna Heimiller, Nate Bair, Gian Porro, "U.S. Renewable Energy Technical Potentials", National Renewable Energy Laboratory, NREL/TP-6A20-51946, July 2012, Tables No. 2 and No. 3, www.nrel.gov/docs/fy12osti/51946.pdf

² American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy (ACEEE), "State Energy Efficiency Policy Database: Tennessee", <http://aceee.org/sector/state-policy/tennessee>

³ Tennessee Valley Authority, "Integrated Resource Plan", March 2, 2011, <http://www.tva.com/environment/reports/irp/>

⁴ Marilyn A. Brown, Etan Gumerman, Oiaojing Sun, Youngsun Baek, Joy Wang, Rodrigo Cortes, and Diran Soumonni, "Energy Efficiency in the South," Southeast Energy Efficiency Alliance, Atlanta, GA, April 12, 2010, <http://www.aeec.arkansas.gov/Solutions/Documents/ReportEfficiencyInTheSouth.pdf>

⁵ Energy Savvy and Efficiency First, "A Ticking Atomic Clock: Nuclear Power vs. Efficient Homes," <http://www.energysavvy.com/blog/2011/07/13/ticking-atomic-clock-nuclear-power-vs-efficient-homes/>

⁶ DOE SunShot Initiative, SunShot Vision Study, February 2012, http://www1.eere.energy.gov/solar/sunshot/vision_study.html

⁷ Union of Concerned Scientists, "The Cost of Nuclear Power: Numbers That Don't Add Up", 2011, http://www.ucsusa.org/nuclear_power/nuclear_power_and_global_warming/nuclear-power-cost.html

⁸ Mothers Against Tennessee River Radiation, "Radioactive Poison: an introduction with numerous references", <http://radioactivepoison.blogspot.com>

⁹ Marilyn A. Brown and Benjamin K. Sovacool, "A Source of Energy Hiding in Plain Sight", YaleGlobal Online, Feb. 18, 2009, <http://yaleglobal.yale.edu/content/source-energy-hiding-plain-sight>

¹⁰ DOE Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE), "LBNL and NREL Analysis Predicts Record Low LCOE for Wind Energy in 2012-2013", Wind Program Newsletter, February 24, 2012, <http://apps1.eere.energy.gov/wind/newsletter/detail.cfm/articleId=45>

¹¹ Miriam Makhyoun, Rich Crowley, Paul Quinlan, "Levelized Cost of Solar Photovoltaics in North Carolina", NC Sustainable Energy Association, February 2011, <http://energync.org/assets/files/LCOE%20of%20Solar%20PV%20in%20North%20Carolina-FINAL.pdf>