

2nd post-storm letter

Dear TVA Board of Directors,

The EF-5 tornado that took out power lines to Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant on April 27, 2011 could have made a direct hit on the 3+ million pounds of 'spent' fuel rods stored in cooling pools there – and we would have had our own Fukushima. It was a very close call, and despite TVA claims, all did not go "as designed" with the multiple SCRAMs on that day.

Nuclear power is a high risk and hazardous technology. There is still no safe storage solution for high level radioactive waste, so the rods must be stored at the nuclear plants along our waterways. Most of this highly hazardous waste is stored in cooling pools with only sheet metal roofs as protection from aerial assaults – whether tornadoes, aircraft or missiles. We call on you to move fuel rods into more secure dry casks now.

Studies have shown that both solar and wind power production are now more cost effective than nuclear power, with none of the long term risks to the people or the environment of the Tennessee Valley. Investments in Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy have tremendous potential to put Americans back to work in construction and new “green-collar” jobs.

We urge TVA to impose a moratorium on all its nuclear plans, to halt plans for the Bellefonte Nuclear Plant, and instead commit to advancing safe and truthfully clean energy solutions for our valley. If the northern, cloudy country of Germany can produce 4.5 times more solar electricity than the whole United States, then the hot and sunny Tennessee Valley can lead America into a new solar age – with hydro, wind, battery, and even gas backups.

We call of the TVA to rise to a new future – free from the three poisons of coal, oil, and nuclear. The technology and the economics are on the side of Renewables (in hydrogen cells, solar cells, thermal solar, wind, hydro-power, and energy efficiency), so why is the TVA stubbornly clinging to this dangerous and expensive old-school nuclear technology? Why risk our children's health and safety with dirty energy, when Renewables are more cost effective, leave no waste, and need no safety systems?

Sincerely,