



## Bellefonte Efficiency & Sustainability Team

B.E.S.T.

A local chapter of Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League • [www.bredl.org](http://www.bredl.org)



Comments to the TVA Board of Directors

August 18, 2011

Good morning. I am representing Mothers Against Tennessee River Radiation, and we would like to welcome the new director, Mr. Howorth, and present him with a copy of the letter and map that we presented to board members at the last meeting, as well as a new letter to all board members, signed by twelve environmental groups, explaining our concerns about the TVA's rush towards further nuclear investment in Bellefonte.

We are sincerely hoping that you have not already decided how you will vote on this important issue of Bellefonte. With all due respect, many believe the board "rubber stamps" whatever executive management proposes, but our group calls on you to fulfill your duty as the real Directors of the TVA.

We call on each of you to only vote after much independent study and responsible consideration – addressing the very long term economic and human health problems with the nuclear fuel cycle, the unpredictable nuclear construction costs, the costs of thousand of years of radioactive waste sequestering (and the even higher costs in human lives if the waste is not secured adequately), and the public health costs for the community near Bellefonte.

That said, we again express our hope that your minds remain open to relevant information, and we call on this board to lead the TVA into a 21st century future, recognizing the immense values of efficiency and sustainability.

We would like to address how you can accomplish safe, abundant and affordable electricity without raising rates or bankrupting the TVA.

Whereas your Integrated Resource Plan calls for 51 to 94% investment in dirty energy, you are only planning on 2 to 11% for Energy Efficiency and only 2 to 8% for Renewables.

We know, from very highly respected sources, that Energy Efficiency can reduce electric consumption in our country "by an astounding 30 to 75 percent,"<sup>1</sup> and last year's study showed aggressive energy efficiency programs in the south can lower utility bills by \$41 billion, and create 380,000 new jobs.<sup>2</sup>

Another study compared efficiency to nuclear power and found, "For half the cost of a [1000 MW] new nuclear power plant, we can retrofit 1,600,000 homes for energy efficiency and save the same amount of energy. Retrofitting the houses would create 220,000 new jobs - that's 90 times more jobs than you'd get from the replacement nuclear power plant."<sup>3</sup>

Because you are not a private company bound to generate profits for your stockholders, you could focus on the needs of the people of the Tennessee Valley and provide better homes with lower utility rates while creating jobs through Energy Efficiency Programs.

This would also allow the TVA to become more financially stable, without the cost uncertainties of nuclear power, and would buy time for the the rapid progression of solar, wind, and geothermal technologies – to invest in a truly clean sustainable future.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Gretel Johnston  
Mothers Against Tennessee River Radiation

[MATTR.org](http://MATTR.org) – Because It Matters

<sup>1</sup> Marilyn A. Brown and Benjamin K. Sovacool, "A Source of Energy Hiding in Plain Site", YaleGlobal Online, Feb. 18, 2009, <http://yaleglobal.yale.edu/content/source-energy-hiding-plain-sight>

<sup>2</sup> Georgia Tech Newsroom, April 12, 2010, Atlanta, GA, <http://www.gatech.edu/newsroom/release.html?nid=55336>  
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.seealliance.org/se\\_efficiency\\_study/full\\_report\\_efficiency\\_in\\_the\\_south.pdf](http://www.seealliance.org/se_efficiency_study/full_report_efficiency_in_the_south.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> 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/>