TVA Board of Directors April 24, 2012

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Dear TVA Directors,

We call on you to investigate economically and environmentally favorable alternatives to nuclear power. We hope you have read two very important books on this subject: the *Carbon Free Nuclear Free* book presented to each of you, and also the book by the TVA's distinguished former Chairman, David Freeman's *Winning Our Energy Independence*.

We also hope you have read the paper by your board member Marilyn Brown with Benjamin Sovacool, "A Source of Energy Hiding in Plain Sight." In it they say, "In just the electric utility industry, cost-effective energy efficiency measures could reduce U.S. consumption by an astounding 30 to 75%." [1] We feel certain you will have read Ms. Brown's Georgia Tech study with Duke University, "Energy Efficiency in the South," where they found that energy efficiency in one decade could "lower our utility bills by $41 billion, create 380,000 new jobs" and "save 8.6 billion gallons of freshwater" in addition to reducing "the need for new power plants". [2]

With this knowledge in hand, TVA has chosen to increase its commitment to energy efficiency from 1% to 6% by 2019. We again call on you to do better, especially now that you have created such massive TVA debts with your nuclear programs. We call on the TVA to raise its efficiency commitment from 6% to 30% by 2019. In 2005, Tennessee and Alabama ranked last in the nation in residential energy efficiency, and Tennessee was 57% less efficient than California, 54% less efficient than New York, and 30% less efficient than the average U.S. resident.

But Tennessee has shown it is capable of rising to the efficiency of the rest of the country. From 2005 to 2007, they increased efficiency enough to move their ranking from 51st (of 51 states) to 46th; and in one year, 2007, Tennessee initiated a program that moved their efficiency ranking from 46th to 38th in the nation, saving 63,547 MWh of electricity, and "TVA reports that in Tennessee they spent $18.5 million on energy efficiency in 2009, saving 120,769 MWh. [3]

We applaud your improvements in these areas; however, comparing the economics of efficiency to nuclear, we think it should be clear that it is time to commit to efficiency. Again, we call on you to increase your commitment from 6% to 30%.

Using the TVA estimation of 5,200 GWh savings by 2019 with a 6% efficiency improvement, then a 30% (6% x 5) EEDR improvement would achieve 26,000 GWh (5,200 x 5) savings.

This 26,000 GWh savings would greatly reduce the 22,000 GWh additional capacity needs TVA anticipates, and would weaken your justification for building additional expensive and dangerous nuclear reactors in our valley.

According to an Energy Saavy and Efficiency First study, for half the cost of a 1000 MW nuclear power plant over its 40 year life span, energy efficiency programs can reduce utility bills for 1.6 million families and create 90 times more jobs – that's 220,000 jobs rather than 2,400 for nuclear.[4]

Certainly this valley could use lower bills and more jobs, and TVA could benefit from generation savings.

We call on you to lead the TVA out of this nuclear quagmire of old-school thinking wrapped in a fancy new sales package. If we need more capacity, then pursue the transitional Combined Cycle Natural Gas Plants for almost half the cost of nuclear.[5] And if you want to lead us into a truthfully clean energy future, then pay attention to solar power as it advances during the lucrative decades when TVA doesn't pursue nuclear contracts because it is saving money and creating jobs with energy efficiency programs. Nuclear power has put the TVA at risk financially and our valley at risk environmentally. TVA can rein in its finances, create jobs for valley residents, lower our utility bills, improve valley residences, and use the savings to secure the more than seven million pounds of highly toxic nuclear waste that TVA energy policies have already brought to our valley. It is time to fulfill your mandate for our valley by leading us into a prosperous and environmentally safe future.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully submitted by Gretel Johnston
for MATRR - Mothers Against Tennessee River Radiation
MATTR.org – Because It Matters

References:

[1] 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

[2] 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

[3] American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy, National Scorecard on Energy Efficiency, ACEEE /Tennessee, http://aceee.org/sector/state-policy/tennessee

[4]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/

[5] Energy Information Administration, Levelized cost of New Generation Resources in the Annual Energy Outlook 2011, December 2010, DOE/EIA-0383(2010), http://www.eia.gov/oiaf/aeo/electricity_generation.html