

A Resolution for Representation of Environmental Interests On the Tennessee Valley Authority Board of Directors

In recognition that:

- The Tennessee Valley Authority Act specifically states that, to be eligible for appointment to the TVA Board of Directors, an individual “shall affirm support for the objectives and missions of the Corporation, including being a national leader in technological innovation, low-cost power, and *environmental stewardship*,”¹
- The Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) is responsible for the management of 293,000 acres of public land and 11,000 miles of public shoreline within the Tennessee Valley;
- TVA is charged with operating the Tennessee River system, the 5th largest river system in the United States, to provide year-round navigation, flood control, affordable electricity, improved water quality and water supply, recreation and economic growth;
- TVA has had three significant environmental incidents in the past three months that have caused severe environmental damage to the Emory River and Ocoee River ecosystem in east Tennessee and the Widows Creek ecosystem in north Alabama;
- Through its operation of 11 coal-fired power plants with a total of 59 generating units, TVA generated over 107 million tons of carbon dioxide, 374,000 tons of sulfur dioxide and 195,000 tons of nitrogen oxides in 2007 alone;²
- TVA’s coal plant emissions have significantly degraded the environmental quality of the southeastern United States, including significant contribution to the degradation of both air quality and forest health in the Great Smoky Mountain National Park, the nation’s most-visited national park;
- TVA is a significant contributor to the United States’ greenhouse gas emissions totals and it is generally accepted among the world’s scientific community that prompt action to curb these emissions is necessary to avoid a global crisis;

We hereby request that President Obama appoint, with the advice and consent of the U.S. Senate, individuals to the TVA Board of Directors who will advance the stated objective of TVA to represent the interests of its constituents to provide clean air, water and advance the stated objective to be a national leader in environmental stewardship.

¹ Tennessee Valley Authority Act, 16 U.S.C. 831 § 2(b)(5); (emphasis added).

² TVA Coal Plant Emissions, raw emissions data. Available at:
<http://www.tva.gov/environment/air/totaldata.htm>

TVA's influence over the environmental quality of the southeastern United States cannot be overstated. Its activities affect the air we breathe, the land we live upon and the waters that sustain us. The proper management of these systems is crucial to the livelihood of millions of residents of the southeastern United States. However, the TVA Board of Directors does not include any member who was appointed based, in significant part, on an understanding of TVA's environmental impact or a commitment to reducing such impact through the development of clean and renewable energy alternatives and effective energy efficiency and conservation programs.

While we recognize the importance of TVA's objectives to provide affordable and reliable power to nearly nine million people and to maintain the navigability of the Tennessee River System, these objectives are not in conflict with maintaining a healthy environment.

We the undersigned hereby call on President Obama to appoint, and for the U.S. Senate to approve, individuals with the experience and knowledge necessary to understand TVA's impact on our natural environment and recognize the opportunities that energy efficiency and renewable energy present to improve the quality of air, land and water in the Southeast and reduce the nation's contribution to worsening global climate change. A demonstrated track record of environmental leadership and support for the application of innovative technology to quickly improve and expand TVA's energy conservation, efficiency and renewable energy programs should be a necessary qualification for future appointees to the TVA Board.

Given TVA's critical role in our nation's energy future and global warming impact, we ask that there be prompt action on filling the current vacancies on the TVA Board with individuals with the above-mentioned qualifications. Such appointments will represent a first step towards TVA once again fulfilling its mandate to act as steward to the environment while continuing to provide affordable electricity and navigable waters to the citizens of the Tennessee Valley. We, with many members as constituents of the TVA, expect no less.

John McFadden
Executive Director
Tennessee Environmental Council

Michael Churchman
Executive Director
Alabama Environmental Council

Rick S Middleton
Executive Director
Southern Environmental Law Center

Don Barger
Senior Director
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Renée Hoyos
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