

## **TVA's Integrated Resource Plan: Focus on Coal Retirement**

### **How much coal does TVA burn?**

TVA currently operates 59 coal-fired generating units and 11 plants. This accounts for approximately 14,500 MW of electricity, which makes up over 50% of TVA's total energy generation. In total, TVA's 11 plants use 124,650 tons of coal per day, or 45,467,250 tons of coal per year! As a result, TVA operations emit more 100 million tons of CO<sub>2</sub> each year.



**The Kingston coal ash spill reminded all of us of the true costs of burning coal. From cradle to grave, coal is dirty, dangerous business.**

### **What are the costs of coal?**

The true costs of burning coal are extraordinary. **When we account for the human health, economic and environmental costs of mining, transporting and then burning coal, it becomes clear that we must transition away from this energy source.** A recent report by the Clean Air Task Force estimates that air pollution from coal alone causes the death of 3,207 people in TVA's seven-state region.

### **Why not just retrofit TVA's coal plants instead of retiring them?**

In many cases, it doesn't make economic or environmental sense. Most of TVA's coal units are nearly a half-century old. Adding expensive pollution control technologies is possible, but in many cases it makes better sense to simply shut the coal plants down and transition to cleaner, safer energy options. Also, these retrofits will not reduce TVA's greenhouse gas emissions or coal combustion waste.

### **Is TVA committing to retirements?**

TVA has announced that it will "layup" at least 1,000 MW of coal and in TVA preferred strategies in the Draft IRP consider another 1,000 to 4,000 MW in coal reductions. The catch comes with TVA's use of the term "layup." Instead of permanently retiring these units, TVA is proposing to maintain them for possibly restart in the future. TVA must make a real commitment to *permanently retire* at least 4,000 MW of coal-fired generation.

### **What can we do to reduce the impacts of coal?**

Tell TVA that you want a real commitment to coal retirements in favor of energy efficiency and renewable energy. TVA is accepting comments on its draft Integrated Resource Plan through November 8<sup>th</sup>. **Our voice can make the Valley's future clean, safer and brighter!**

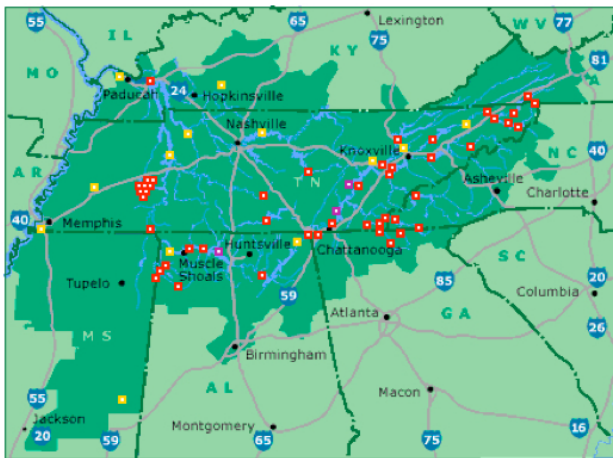
For more information on the dangers of coal and how we can transition to cleaner energy sources, visit us at [www.cleanenergy.org](http://www.cleanenergy.org).

## Integrated Resource Planning: Preparing for an uncertain future

### **What is Integrated Resource Planning?**

Integrated Resource Planning, or “IRP,” is a process that evaluates all of a utility’s resource options to find a strategy to meet future energy demand with the least amount of cost and risk. Both supply side resources, such as new power plants, and demand-side resources, such as energy efficiency, are evaluated as possible options.

TVA’s IRP process also takes into account its statutory directives to keep rates low, protect the environment, support economic development and be a leader in technological innovation. To accomplish these objectives, TVA evaluates possible strategies based not only on cost and risk, but also on environmental impact, contribution to the Valley’s economic development, and the advancement of various technologies.



**TVA’s IRP process seeks the best combination of resources to meet the Valley’s energy demand.**

### **How will this process impact the Tennessee Valley?**

What strategy TVA ultimately pursues will determine how much our electricity costs, how healthy our regional economies are, and how clean our land, skies and waters are. Having a coherent plan that prioritizes energy efficiency and renewable energy will create jobs, strengthen local economies and reduce our impact on the environment. The IRP process is the tool by which TVA can achieve this energy future, but it will take our voice to get it done.

### **Why does TVA need to hear from us?**

TVA needs to hear from you because TVA was created to serve the people of the Valley. Our voice will have an impact on how aggressively TVA develops the efficiency and renewable energy resources of the Valley. Prioritizing these resources will create jobs, strengthen local economies, and protect our environment for generations to come. Developing these resources should be TVA’s top priority, but TVA must hear from us that this is the future we want for the Valley.

### **How can someone participate in this process?**

TVA’s draft plan has been released for public review and comment. Comments can be submitted through November 8<sup>th</sup> by mail, online, or in person at one of the hearings being held in October. After comments are received, TVA will re-evaluate its recommended strategies and present a preferred strategy to the Board of Directors in spring 2011. For more information on submitting comments, go to <http://www.tva.gov/environment/reports/irp/index.htm>.

To learn more about clean energy in the Southeast, visit us at [www.cleanenergy.org](http://www.cleanenergy.org).