

June 15, 2017 Don Safer, TVA SMR ESP Clinch River Press conference comments

***I am Don Safer, from Nashville. I serve on the board of the Tennessee Environmental Council. The Tennessee Environmental Council has been Educating and advocating for the conservation and improvement of Tennessee's environment, communities, and public health since 1970.***

***The council feels this issue is critically important to the energy future of the Tennessee valley.***

***We urge TVA to abandon its unnecessary, experimental, speculative small modular reactor program. Nuclear power is neither clean nor green.***

***With rapid growth and cost reductions in renewable generation TVA's SMR project looks like a make work project for three large Federal bureaucracies: The Department of Energy, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, and TVA's nuclear engineering division. We won't need SMR power ten years from now, the soonest it could possibly come on line.***

***TVA's fascination with nuclear power has been a financial burden: most of TVA's 25 billion dollar debt is from 13 failed nuclear projects.***

***SMR's have been promoted by the Department of Energy for decades and the once hyped US SMR business is down to one manufacturer with two possible customers: TVA and the Utah Associated Municipal Power Systems. Both of these projects are in DOE communities, Oak Ridge and Idaho Falls.***

***Small modular reactors are too costly, too slow to bring on line, too uncertain, and have a high environmental impact and risk.***

***SMR's produce the same problematic waste that has befuddled the nuclear industry worldwide. TVA already holds far too much dangerous spent nuclear fuel. Current national high level nuclear waste practices would leave this waste on site for decades or much longer.***

***TVA has inadequate funding for decommissioning its currently operating reactors.***

***Tennessee already processes and disposes far too much low-level radioactive waste from around the country and the world.***

***The future belongs to renewable energy. TVA should embrace that future and aggressively add renewable generation and energy efficiency to speed up the retirement of coal, nuclear and gas facilities***

***The sooner TVA starts changing course to put renewables first the smoother the transition to a cleaner, safer energy future.***