

TVA's Integrated Resource Plan: Focus on Nuclear Reactors

How many new nuclear reactors is TVA considering?

TVA's recommended strategies propose building up to four new reactors to be brought online between 2018 and 2028. While each strategy includes at least three new reactors under a high load growth scenario, the difference is when the first reactor comes online. The EEDR and Renewables focused strategy doesn't have the first reactor online until 2022, while the other two recommended strategies bring the first reactor online in 2018.



Nuclear reactors come with significant economic, environmental and safety risks.

Why is the delay from 2018 to 2022 significant?

First, it means delaying the economic and environmental burdens that accompany new nuclear reactors. More importantly it gives us time to develop efficiency and renewable energy resources that may eliminate the need for new reactors. Efficiency and renewables are quickly becoming a go-to resource for meeting energy demand and as these technologies develop, they will become cheaper, more efficient and available in even greater quantities.

Why are efficiency and renewable energy better alternatives than new nuclear reactors?

Four words: cost, waste, water and safety. *The estimated cost of a new reactor is now approaching 10 billion dollars.* The issue of safely managing radioactive waste also remains unsolved, and adding new reactors means more nuclear waste in the Valley. New reactors will also add additional stress to the already over-heated Tennessee River. Finally, whether through accident or long-term exposure, nuclear reactors pose a serious threat to human health. In sum, efficiency and renewables offer a cleaner, cheaper, less water-intensive and safer energy choice.

So why is TVA so committed to building new reactors?

Nuclear reactors fit into the business-as-usual utility model of large, baseload generation. Efficiency and renewables are more distributed resources that require a different approach to grid and load management. These factors, combined with TVA's relative inexperience with renewable energy resources have led to institutional biases within TVA that favor new nuclear reactors in spite of the inherent risks and high costs to ratepayers.

What can we do to get TVA to focus instead on efficiency and renewable resources?

Tell TVA that we need to develop all available efficiency and renewable energy so we can avoid having to construct new nuclear reactors. TVA is accepting public comment on its draft IRP through November 8, 2010. **Our voice can make the Valley's future cleaner, safer and brighter!** The draft IRP and more information on the process can be found at:

<http://www.tva.gov/environment/reports/irp/index.htm>.

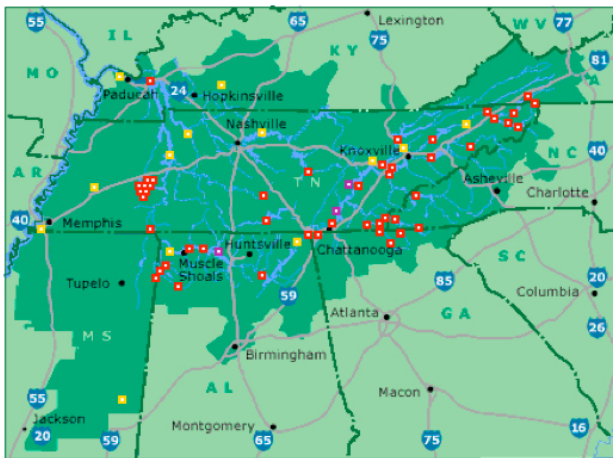
For information on the Valley's clean energy resources and the dangers of nuclear power, visit us at www.cleanenergy.org.

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 8th 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.