



November 15, 2012

William Johnson
Incoming President and Chief Executive Officer
Tennessee Valley Authority

Mr. Johnson,

On behalf of the Sierra Club's 1.4 million members and supporters, including thousands in the region served by the Tennessee Valley Authority, welcome to your new role. As the Nation's largest public power system TVA has a long history serving the needs of the region's residents. Its unique legal mandate, from the TVA Act of 1933, is to be a national leader in technological innovation, low-cost power, economic development, and environmental stewardship. We request a meeting with you to discuss the interests of the Sierra Club and our members in helping TVA build a clean energy future.

The biggest opportunity facing you is to lead a shift from TVA's proposed spending on dirty, dangerous, and costly energy options such as coal and nuclear to new investments in affordable and reliable energy efficiency and clean energy. Progress Energy was one of the first companies to decide that pouring more money into aging coal plants was the wrong choice. Over the next few months TVA must decide whether to spend billions to extend the lives of its polluting coal plants like the Gallatin facility near Nashville. We hope you use your experience at Progress Energy to choose energy efficiency and clean energy options that will create more jobs and lower costs for businesses and families, rather than coal.

At Progress Energy you also saw firsthand the mistake of trying to extend dependence on risky nuclear plants. The problems and cost overruns at the Crystal River and proposed Levy nuclear plants in Florida make it clear that continuing to pursue further spending on nuclear plants such as Bellefonte is not the prudent course for TVA. We urge you to immediately review the ongoing cost concerns and safety problems with respect to TVA's nuclear reactors. TVA's money would be better spent increasing energy efficiency, wind, and solar power, and building the electric system needed to support them.

As you take the helm of TVA, we look forward to meeting with you to begin our work together on shaping the Valley's energy future and protecting its air, water, land and all who depend upon them for life. Please contact us at mark.kresowik@sierraclub.org or 202-675-7914 to arrange a meeting.

Sincerely,

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