

Summary of Public Comments to the TVA Board

For consideration in advance of the TVA Board Meeting in Florence, Alabama February 16, 2023

The TVA Board of Directors heard from 50 members of the public at the Board's Listening Session on Feb. 15, 2023. In addition, nine sets of written comments were provided to the Board. Comments addressed a variety of issues, with many noting the region's critical need for electricity that is reliable, resilient, affordable and clean.

Representatives of the region's 153 local power companies urged TVA to add diverse, dispatchable capacity to ensure reliability and support growth. They also expressed support for TVA's Winter Storm Elliott review and actions taken by TVA, and they expressed appreciation for TVA's continued support of renewable energy. Executives of four organizations that represent local power companies spoke, along with leaders of eight local power companies, a representative of Associated Valley Industries, and two executives of directly served TVA customers. Three local power companies also provided written comments.

Nine speakers represented the Sierra Club and other environmental groups. They encouraged TVA to avoid adding natural gas capacity and to pursue renewable energy and energy efficiency more aggressively. Additional speakers expressed concern about possible pipeline construction. Written comments were provided by the Clean Up TVA Coalition and Appalachian Voices; Sierra Club submitted comments with more than 200 signatures on letters opposing fossil fuels and a combined-cycle plant at Cumberland.

Six members of the Tennessee Valley Farmers expressed appreciation for TVA's partnership on erosion control and river management. They also expressed concerns about the risk of losing prime farmland when solar projects are developed.

Other speakers commented on the importance of commercial navigation; TVA's strong union partnerships; the TVA retiree organization BVI Inc.; an easement issue in Savannah, Tennessee; the economic value of power plants in Choctaw County, Mississippi; coal as a valuable natural resource; an ongoing property access issue in Perry County, Tennessee; potential water contamination from a construction project; power outages during Winter Storm Elliott; and an ongoing Equal Employment Opportunity issue.

Additional written comments included the value of demand response; a closed insurance issue, and an expression of appreciation to TVA for working in partnership with the Colbert County Emergency Management Agency.