

# Regional Energy Resource Council Minutes June 26-27, 2019

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## **Tennessee Valley Authority Regional Energy Resource Council June 26-27, 2019 Meeting Advice Statement**

*Note: This advice statement is considered draft until it is included in the Meeting Minutes and approved by the RERC Chair.*

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The Regional Energy Resource Council (RERC) was established by TVA to obtain advice and views from the public on the development and management of energy resources in the Tennessee Valley region. The RERC comprises a diverse group of stakeholders representing environmental, governmental, industrial, business, local power companies, educational, economic development, and community leadership interests.

TVA has completed an Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) to guide identification of resources to meet the energy needs of the Tennessee Valley region over the next 20 years. As part of its mission, the RERC has participated in the development of the 2019 IRP. Throughout the process, the RERC has given guidance to TVA staff on the development of the study and the resulting planning recommendation.

The RERC affirms that:

1. The IRP covers an appropriate range of future possible conditions. This allows TVA to proactively plan for the future, considering a number of scenarios and strategies in order to prepare a risk based, flexible, and reliable plan. The development of the 2019 IRP was a comprehensive and thorough process that provided multiple levels of engagement and transparency for the public. The RERC recognizes that TVA's IRP process sets a high standard and is a model for the industry.
2. Further, the RERC recognizes this plan builds on the significant carbon reduction achieved by TVA in recent years.

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3. The development of the IRP was strengthened by the iterative process where a diverse group of stakeholders was engaged with TVA to shape the study inputs and refinements along the way. In particular the comprehensive work completed by the IRP Working Group, as well as the public outreach, provided a variety of ways for members of the public to receive information and participate in the process.
4. The RERC commends TVA for dedicating the appropriate level of resources to this process and the rigorous analysis that underlies this plan.

The RERC recognizes that while the IRP has a 20 year planning horizon, refreshes should occur as needed based on TVA's review of the sign posts looking for changes in the evolving marketplace.

The RERC further recognizes that TVA has a leadership role to play in addressing poverty by building on a collaborative approach with local power companies and other stakeholders across the Valley to achieve energy efficiency for low income residents.

The RERC recommends the following regarding implementation of the IRP:

1. TVA should monitor federal and state regulations, legal challenges, and industry changes that may alter the broader energy environment and take appropriate actions to mitigate risks to the power system's reliability and costs.
2. TVA should continue to work with local power companies, directly served customers, and stakeholders to collaborate on Distributed Energy Resources (DER) and distribution planning; build greater visibility into customer needs; and prepare for associated data management. Standardization of cost-effective DER smart technologies will enable the system to efficiently utilize distributed resources.
3. TVA should continue engaging with stakeholders early in any decision process on the site selection for solar, gas power generation, and utility-scale energy storage to avoid land-use conflicts, encourage the utilization of existing

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infrastructure assets, and maximize system benefits. In addition, TVA should continue to analyze small-scale, flexible, carbon-free nuclear resources for their potential inclusion in a diverse portfolio.

4. TVA should continue evaluating gaps in data, including customer needs and desires, the speed of technology advancement, locational value, flexibility value, etc., in order to inform and be prepared for future IRPs. TVA should also explore advanced data tools to support the analysis.

Given the aforementioned comments, observations, and recommendations, the RERC unanimously recommends that the TVA Board approve the 2019 IRP.