

ATVG Presents Three Resolutions to TVA Board

By: ATVG Acting Executive Director: Mike Arms

On August 18th the TVA Board of Directors unanimously approved its staff recommendation to finish construction of the 37-year-old Bellefonte Nuclear Plant in northeast Alabama. The current estimate of construction cost for completion is \$4 - \$5 billion. The action is aligned with TVA's Integrated Resource Plan which moves the agency's power production mix to nuclear power and less coal-fired. The plan also addresses renewable energy, pumped-storage capacity, natural gas and other components of TVA's power mix. The Association of Tennessee Valley Governments (ATVG) was represented at the meeting presenting three resolutions passed by the ATVG board this past year. The ATVG resolutions addressed (1) regulation of coal combustion residuals (CCR); (2) opposition to interbasin transfer of water; and (3) support of nuclear energy. The full resolutions can be found on the ATVG website. An overview of each resolution states our position on these important issues.

ATVG opposes the regulation of coal combustion residuals (commonly referred to as coal ash) as a hazardous waste. Our organization agrees it is both reasonable and responsible to review and improve systems and procedures associated with CCR disposal controls. ATVG's position states that CCR disposal can and should be adequately addressed under landfill regulations overseen by state authority and not by more EPA regulations.

ATVG reaffirms its opposition to interbasin transfer of water from the Tennessee River Basin. This position addresses the proposed removal of water from the river basin for increases in water supply to cities and municipal areas outside the basin facing water shortages. ATVG realizes that economics throughout the Tennessee Valley Region depend on the Tennessee River System for low-cost power generation, municipal and industrial water supply, efficient waterborne transportation, recreation, tourism, environmental preservation, and jobs. The impacts of interbasin water transfers may not occur at the point of withdrawal but on reservoirs far from the point of withdrawal potentially effecting municipal and industrial water supplies throughout the Tennessee valley.

ATVG supports nuclear energy. Our organization believes that the generation of nuclear energy is a safe, low cost, emission-free energy source for use by the residents of the Tennessee Valley. ATVG supports the efforts of the Tennessee Valley Authority and other energy utilities nationwide to complete existing nuclear power and pursue new nuclear generations. This includes support of the renewed construction of Bellefonte nuclear power plant which also creates thousands of construction jobs and many long-term skilled permanent jobs.