

**BEFORE THE ELECTRIC POWER BOARD**

**RESOLUTION RECOMMENDING TVA PURSUE SOLAR AND STORAGE  
INVESTMENTS IN MIDDLE TENNESSEE**

**WHEREAS**, the Tennessee Valley Authority (“TVA”) has invited public comment and feedback on the evaluation of the future of its Cumberland Fossil Plant in Cumberland City, Tennessee (“Cumberland Plant”), which was built between 1968 and 1973 and has a summer net capability of 2,470 megawatts;

**WHEREAS**, as part of this process, TVA has developed a draft Environmental Impact Statement (“EIS”) outlining three alternative paths forward for the Cumberland Plant and provides a unique opportunity for TVA to replace environmentally harmful fossil fuel with clean renewable energy;

**WHEREAS**, TVA’s preferred path involves decommissioning the fossil fuel plant and retrofitting the Cumberland Plant to run off a natural gas, which would require the building of gas pipeline infrastructure to supply the plant;

**WHEREAS**, one of the other alternative paths for the Cumberland Plant involves decommissioning the fossil fuel plant and replacing it with solar energy accompanied with battery storage placed in Middle Tennessee (“Alternative C”), which would connect to TVA’s existing transmission system rather than through the building of miles of gas pipeline infrastructure;

**WHEREAS**, the Electric Power Board of the Metropolitan Government of Nashville Davidson County (“Board”) provides oversight and strategic visioning of Nashville Electric Service (“NES”), which is TVA’s largest customer and utility distributor;

**WHEREAS**, NES is dependent on TVA to supply all of its power needs to all 420,000+ customers in Davidson and six other counties in Middle Tennessee and is severely limited in its ability to bring clean renewable energy to the region without TVA’s consent;

**WHEREAS**, TVA generation is only 14% renewables, which places it behind other major power providers in the nation even with its recent commitments to renewable energy;

**WHEREAS**, the Board is tasked with ensuring that NES fulfills its mission to deliver safe, reliable power and that safe includes the impact of said power generation and delivery on the environments and communities of the area it serves;

**WHEREAS**, NES is currently developing, at the Board’s direction, its Environmental, Social, and Governance (“ESG”) framework and strategy to make environmentally conscious operational decisions and to keep NES appealing to the bond markets, which is fundamental to keeping rates low and power affordable for NES customers;

**WHEREAS**, NES’s ability to implement a robust ESG policy will be enhanced by an increase in renewable energy offered by TVA;

**WHEREAS**, TVA’s process of seeking input on the future of the Cumberland Plant provides the Board a rare opportunity to provide guidance that steers TVA away from fossil fuels toward sustainable renewable power generated in the region where it is used;

**WHEREAS**, according to a 2020 report produced by David Gardiner & Associates entitled “Nashville Carbon Competitiveness” (the “Gardiner Report”), 90 percent of S&P 500 companies published a corporate sustainability report for 2019, and these reports mainly focused on climate change, including the reduction of corporate GHG emissions and the scaling up of clean energy;

**WHEREAS**, the Gardiner Report emphasizes that companies continue to increase their sustainability goals and demand for carbon reduction from the utilities that serve them;

**WHEREAS**, the Gardiner Report states that companies looking to relocate and provide economic development opportunities to Nashville are using NES’s ability to provide clean, renewable energy as a metric in their decision-making process;

**WHEREAS**, the Board recognizes the lack of clean, renewable energy places NES and the Nashville region at a competitive business disadvantage in attracting more businesses to the Middle Tennessee area, which is a significant finding of the Gardiner Report;

**WHEREAS**, the Board also recognizes that NES’s largest institutional customer, Vanderbilt University, and governmental customer, the Metropolitan Government of Nashville-Davidson County, have sustainability targets that NES could only deliver with 100 percent customer investment and a greater focus on renewable energy from TVA;

**WHEREAS**, smaller NES business customers without significant resources do not have the choice or option to consume environmentally sustainable power, which could place them at a competitive disadvantage with their vendors and customers; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board understands that, as the stewards of NES’s public power utility, it must be the voice of its customers to ensure that TVA continues to make the necessary investments in clean, renewable energy.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board, in the pursuit of safe, reliable, and affordable power:

**AFFIRMS** its support for TVA’s development and proliferation of renewable sources of energy and fuel, particularly solar;

**AFFIRMS** TVA’s intentional shift of its power infrastructure away from fossil fuels and toward sustainable energy production and storage, and

**AFFIRMS** its support for TVA’s efforts to manage and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that this Board recommends that TVA further evaluate the solution for the future of the Cumberland Plant. This solution should include the resources utilized in Alternative C in conjunction with Alternative B as well as energy efficiency and demand response initiatives for the following reasons:

(1) Alternative C provides clean, renewable solar energy produced in Middle Tennessee;

(2) Alternative C creates economic opportunities for jobs and construction dollars associated with the new proposed solar arrays;

(3) Alternative C provides NES with more attractive resources in its toolbox to offer clean, renewable energy that keeps it competitive with other major American cities; and

(4) Alternative C prevents TVA from investing in long-term assets that leave ratepayers with high stranded asset costs if future technological innovations provide more efficient clean, renewable alternatives.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Secretary of the Board shall file this Resolution with TVA prior to June 13, 2022, transmit a copy of this Resolution to the Mayor of the Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County, and preserve a copy for NES's files.

**ADOPTED** by the Electric Power Board on this 25<sup>th</sup> day of May 2022.

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Irma Paz-Bernstein, Chair

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Approved as to form and legality:

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Laura Smith, VP & General Counsel

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**ATTEST AND CERTIFICATION**

I, Teresa Broyles-Aplin, do hereby certify that I am the duly appointed secretary of the Electric Power Board of the Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County, and as such official, I further certify that the foregoing resolution is a true and correct copy of said resolution adopted by the Electric Power Board at its regular meeting on May 25, 2022.

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Teresa Broyles-Aplin, Secretary

Date: \_\_\_\_\_