

TVA Board Nominations Represent Partisan Political Payback

Bush Ignores Environmental Stewardship Obligation of TVA

(Nashville, TN) While two seats on the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) Board remain unfilled, the nominations made by the president today show no indication that this administration understands or cares about the environmental stewardship role of TVA.

In addition to producing electric power and serving as an economic development engine for the Tennessee Valley the agency has a responsibility to protect the environment of the area by managing land and water resources and reducing air pollution. TVA oversees 228,000 acres of public land and 11,000 miles of shoreline, while operating 59 fossil fuel units at 11 sites. This ongoing stewardship role is an integral part of TVA's mission and important to the health of the environment and the people of the region.

"I'm not sure why anyone is surprised by this administration's lack of concern for the environment. For five years it has turned a deaf ear to those interested in conservation and environmental protection. From what I've seen the five nominations made today represent nothing but partisan political payback. I'm sure these are fine people, but none appears to have any environmental background. That is no way to run an agency that has such a critical role in protecting the environment," said Will Callaway, executive director for the Tennessee Environmental Council.

Callaway added, "Mr. Bush has yet to make two appointments to the TVA Board. I hope that senators Alexander and Frist will convey to him the importance of appointing individuals with qualified environmental credentials. If those are not made, senators should be hesitant to approve these nominations."

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