



May 11, 2006

Mr. Steve Pitt

TVA

1101 Market Street (MR 4G)
Chattanooga, TN 37402-2801

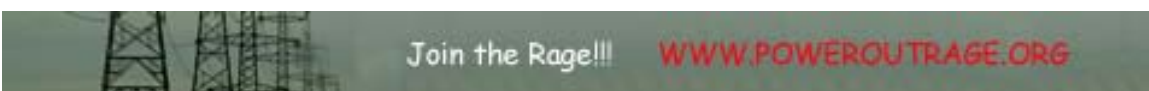
Dear Mr. Pitt,

We, the signers of the attached petitions, hereby state our opposition to the proposed RUTHERFORD/WILLIAMSON power expansion project based on the following criteria:

1. More viable options exist that do not displace or disrupt hundreds of families, their businesses, or their multi-generational farms.
2. The RUTHERFORD/WILLIAMSON option will require the greatest financial investment in land acquisition, new equipment, and oversized infrastructure, without truly enhancing the high-voltage power grid. (The new substation would be a 500kVA 'dead-end' – not characteristic at all of TVA's extremely high reliability rating.)
3. The RUTHERFORD/WILLIAMSON option will have a severe impact on the local communities, and the environment – requiring the elimination of older-growth (100+ year old) forests, and at least one crossing of the critical HARPETH river.
4. Despite requests from many members of the affected communities and their congressional representatives, TVA has yet (as of this date) to produce load studies, budget analysis for all three alternatives, maps of the existing HARTSVILLE/MAURY easement, and lists of other alternatives eliminated early in the scoping process. This has been perceived as a delay tactic by many in the affected communities, and does little to gain public trust.
5. TVA does not seem interested in encouraging energy conservation as part of their overall energy management plan. In fact, many TVA officials interviewed stated that conserving power is not their concern – only providing more power when requested to do so. Conservative estimates for the areas needing the most power would place savings at nearly 30% by 2010. Would it not be less expensive to require TVA customers (municipalities & utilities) to adapt and enforce viable energy codes at least as stringent as ASHREA 90.1/1999? If these communities need so much power to grow, then how about cutting out the waste first? These savings would eliminate the need for any expanded or new substations beyond 2015.
6. The public notification and comment period for a project of this scale, affecting so many people, is remarkably short. It gives the impression that TVA is truly not concerned with the opinions of the communities they are about to decimate.

Before TVA comes into rural communities such as Eagleville, Rockvale, College Grove, and Bethesda demanding land resources, taking people's property through eminent domain, forcing families out of their homes and family farms, shutting down small businesses, exposing schoolchildren to potentially harmful EMF's, and forever destroying older growth forests and rivers, they should be able to prove conclusively that all other options – including conservation – have been fully explored and implemented. **WE DO NOT BELIEVE THIS TEST HAS BEEN MET.**

Regarding the HARTSVILLE/MAURY ROW Easement, to which TVA does NOT have complete clear rights, we offer the following considerations:



1. This easement was acquired for the purpose of connecting the HARTSVILLE NUCLEAR POWER PLANT to the grid and servicing the then flourishing heavy industries in MAURY county. The HARTSVILLE project was cancelled. While TVA still maintains the right-of-way easement on paper, they have made no attempts to maintain their monuments, work with land owners, or given any indication for 30 years that they intended to utilize these resources.
2. It is not unreasonable for the public to assume that after 30 years, this easement had been abandoned. After all, TVA pretty much set the standard with their handling of the land acquired for the DUCK RIVER DAM project. The SPRING HILL, BETHESDA, and COLLEGE GROVE communities have since developed far differently than they would have had high voltage lines been installed. Land owners not directly affected by the easement would have had the choice not to live near these lines. Their eyeballs would have revealed that which their title search would not.
3. Just because TVA CAN force installation of High Voltage lines through these communities, does not mean they SHOULD. There are too many other options that have not been pursued, and far too many unanswered questions.

TVA's Roger Sparry made comments in a recent TENNESSEAN article that the Rutherford substation sites had created 'little in the way of organized opposition'. Either his statements were deliberately misleading, or they were a real-life example of how TVA is not in touch with the communities they serve. The POWER OUTrAGE movement was organized on APRIL 11th, and within hours was distributing full-color handouts to attendees at the TVA open house in Eagleville. A web page was up by that evening, community organizational meetings were held, and this petition drive was initiated. Members of various communities joined resources to make a unified stance against what they perceive as a totalitarian assault on their lives, families, and neighborhoods. You may have personally received a few calls from concerned citizens. In less than 20 days, over 1200 signatures (pretty good for rural areas) were collected from people opposed to this alternative. If that is not an example of 'organized opposition', I am not sure what would qualify.

In closing, it is our firm, educated belief that this is the wrong solution at the wrong time, for the wrong reasons. TVA should recognize the importance of rural communities, family farms, and natural environments toward the overall quality of life for people who choose to live in them. It is OK to say 'no' to uncontrolled, wasteful growth – and to require a reasonable level of conservation before allocating additional resources.

Thank you for your consideration of these points. We look forward to your timely response.

Sincerely,

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Cc:

U.S. Representative Marsha Blackburn
U.S. Representative Bart Gordon
Senator Lamar Alexander
Senator William Frist
State Representative Glen Casada
State Senator Jim Bryson
County Commissioner Clyde Lynch
County Commissioner Judy Hayes
Harpeth Watershed Association
Press and Media

