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September 14, 2015

RE: Comments on the Tennessee Valley Authority's River Bend Solar Project Draft Environmental Assessment

On behalf of the board of directors and volunteers of the Alabama Center for Sustainable Energy (ALCSE), thank you for allowing stakeholders and the public to participate in and comment on the River Bend Solar Project Draft Environmental Assessment. We also commend TVA for its leadership on sustainable energy issues in the Southeast, including the proposed action, and for their willingness to respond to input.

We write today to summarize our support regarding the River Bend Solar Project. We fully support the River Bend Solar Project in light of the following:

- The creation of over 400 jobs during the construction and operation of the project*
- The addition of \$84.8 million in value to the gross domestic product (GDP) for Lauderdale County including earnings and tax revenues*
- The addition of \$118.3 million in value to the GDP for the State of Alabama including earnings and tax revenues*
- The minor to non-existent environmental impacts of the project on land, water and air quality, biological diversity, and cultural resources
- The lack of waste produced by the project considering its lifespan of operation
- The ability to recycle most materials at the end of the project's lifespan
- The ability to return most of the land to its original use at the end of the project's lifespan
- The improvement of environmental justice given the switch from electricity produced from a coal-fired power plant to that produced at a solar power plant

Conclusion

We believe the above findings justify TVA to proceed with the River Bend Solar Project in support of efforts to procure additional sustainable energy. ALCSE is appreciative of TVA's efforts to engage stakeholders and the public to make the River Bend Solar Project successful for customers throughout the Tennessee Valley by providing sustainable, reliable and affordable energy. Sustainable energy is and



will continue to be a vital tool for TVA to promote economic growth and competitiveness for the region. Please do not hesitate to contact us if we can be of additional assistance with your efforts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Tait".

Daniel Tait
CEO
Alabama Center for Sustainable Energy

* Addy, Samuel Ph.D. and Ahmad Ijaz. May 2015. Economic and Fiscal Impacts of Solar Energy Project in Lauderdale County, Alabama. Center for Business and Economic Research, Culverhouse College of Commerce, University of Alabama.