On Power Supply Alternatives

At MLGW, we strive to provide the most reliable and affordable services for our customers. TVA has been a great partner for the past 80 years and we are thankful for their service to our company and our community, however, we must weigh our options for other power sources to determine if our current arrangement is optimal.

Recently, we released a Request for Proposal (RFP) for our Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) process to accurately determine the most viable options should we elect to procure electricity from sources other than TVA. The IRP process is an industry standard approach for utilities to assess optimal resources needed for the long-term electricity supply to meet the needs of their customers. It is important to note that MLGW has never engaged in this process before due to our ability to take reliable, full requirements electric service from TVA.
So, in essence, we are plowing new ground here.

We are working to find consultants for our IRP which will evaluate the current MLGW-TVA “All-Requirements” Wholesale Power Agreement versus that of entering into the Wholesale Power Market to meet the future electric energy needs of our customers at the least cost.

Proposals are due to MLGW by May 17, 2019 and the consultant awarded the contract will be named in early July 2019. Once completed, the IRP will outline the electric resources needed by MLGW to meet the electricity demand of our customers over the next 20 years.

As part of the process, we are working alongside Mayor Jim Strickland to form a community advisory committee comprised of business leaders, community members and other officials. Their input will be an important part of the process of weighing our utility options.

This will be a long, rigorous process and a significant decision. The IRP and the input from the community-based advisory committee will be taken into account when deciding our options for other power sources.

Our goal will always be to fulfill our mission to safely deliver services that create and sustain superior customer experiences. No matter the outcome of this process, we will continue to do just that. Thank you for your patience during this process.

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### Summer Energy Saving Tips

- Have a professional, reputable contractor clean and inspect your air conditioner. This should be done every year, whether you have window or central units.
- Check your air conditioner’s filter every time you receive your utility bill. Look for a dust build-up that can restrict the airflow and place stress on the system. This added stress places wear and tear on the unit, and increases operation costs. Filters can be washable or disposable. Most hardware stores carry inexpensive, fiberglass filters that are disposable. Measure the existing filter or filter opening. You want to buy the proper fitting filter. If fitting is not correct, it will not filter the debris. It is best to keep several filters on hand.
- Always replace the filter cover. By creating a tight seal around the filter opening, you can block any unconditioned air that is being pulled into the unit. The stress of having to cool this warm air causes the efficiency to drop and a loss of effectiveness of the cooling process.
- Set the thermostat at 78° degrees or higher for the most energy efficient operation. Each degree below this setting adds six percent to your cooling costs.
- Use fans to move the air inside your home. This gives the sensation that it is five degrees cooler than the actual temperature.
- Shade windows on the sunny side of your home. Keep drapes closed or add room-darkening shades to block out the heat from the sun.
- The outside portion of a central air conditioner is the condensing unit. Keep it clear from dried mud, debris and grass clippings, because it needs to breathe. Ask the contractor for instructions on how to do it yourself.
- Use a programmable thermostat to routinely raise the inside temperature while you are at work or routinely away from home for four hours or longer. Pre-set the thermostat to adjust back to your normal comfort range 1/2 hour before getting home. This automatic adjustment reduces the cumulative operation of the air conditioner while you are away, and eliminates any discomfort when you arrive home.
- Use your programmable thermostat to automatically increase the temperature setting at bedtime. Sleep under lightweight bedding and use fans during sleep. You will sleep comfortably with less cooling.
- Do not place lamps near your thermostat. The thermostat senses the heat produced from the lamp and causes the air conditioner to run longer than necessary.