

Question/Comment
<p>As an MLGW customer/rate payer and a retiree, I am delighted to hear the recommendation to stay with TVA as the power supplier for MLGW. I am glad MLGW did not cave into political pressure or pressure from small groups of political/environmental advocates who would take extreme and unnecessary risk. TVA is moving forward in a responsible manner without taking extreme and unnecessary risk to accomplish reasonable and financially prudent goals while being environmentally responsible at the same time. Those of us in the energy business support and respect this recommendation and hope MLGW will move forward as recommended.</p>
<p>Per JT Young during this morning's session it was expressed the bids in response to MLGW's RFP would be available at MLGW.com/powersupplyinfo  After reviewing and downloading all documents, the spreadsheets present are only templates and either show \$0 bids or blank information.  Are there updated versions available? If not, where may I find the bid information?</p>
<p>Stay with TVA. It is dependable and tried. Do not leave please...  Look at Texas when they left the main source..</p>
<p>The concern I have with TVA is the attitude they developed that they could just come drill into our aquafer to save themselves some money with no consideration of the danger they presented to our water source.  I hope the new contract will keep them "in their place" as it relates to the infringements on our resources.</p>
<p>I prefer we stay with a more reliable vendor than save 32 a year.</p>
<p>I am extremely concerned by reports that MLGW is considering allowing itself to be locked into a contract with a 20 year notice to leave clause. Such a move would severely limit the optionality of future governments and weaken our bargaining position with TVA. The 3 to 8% discounts reported are insufficient to give away so much leverage. We have seen how projections can change over just 2-4 years. Trying to make projections 20 years out is virtually impossible to do with any precision.</p>
<p>why would you sign a 20 year contract, which is effectively a lifetime contract, and immediately take on responsibility for stranded costs when you have no such obligation today. the proposed rate savings are negligible at best and we are still subject to an arbitrary fuel surcharge which not only negates any savings, but raises the cost substantially. we give up all leverage. for what? how do you plan to consider public comments? what is the purpose? what can we expect as a result?</p>
<p>I am urging you to continue with the RFP process in order to further verify potential savings and environmental benefits with alternative power supplies.  In order to truly know what the best option is for our energy future, MLGW must see this process through to the end, and get all the information on the table to make an informed decision.  I believe there exists a once-in-a-generation opportunity to chart a more clean, affordable, and equitable energy future, but in order to realize this future, you must act accordingly. Allow the RFP process to reach its conclusion, and then make the most informed decision you can that will be best for Memphis. We deserve to have more clean, affordable, and equitable energy choices, and you have the power to make that happen. I urge you to use it.</p>
<p>It is my hope that MLGW will continue to seek other avenues than TVA, but at the least,  I urge you to say NO to a 20 year contract.</p>
<p>I am a Memphis native and an electrical engineer whose first job was co-op'ing with Allen &amp; Hoshall's power consulting business. I am now Chairman of the Board of Power &amp; Telephone Supply Company, one of the Memphis area's larger businesses and the owner of 2 500kw standby generators based on experience with MLGW reliability . I think the following considerations are critical:1.Reliability is the overriding concern in energy supply. Consider all the electrical outage hours over the last 5 years in Memphis and split them between TVA and MLGW opportunities for improvement. I think that is where MLGW should be spending its time to help Memphis business. (Energy is in a category similar to medical care. No one chooses the low bidder to do their root canal.) We cannot afford unreliable power nor the reputation that Jackson MS is achieving with its water system.  2.Competency and experience also count. Today's mistakes take many years to become obvious - usually when it's too late to recover. TVA has had some challenges but it is very experienced and technically sound. Most of the financial innovation by others in electrical markets has proven unhelpful and sometimes disastrous.  3.Sustainability is now in sharp relief in Europe. Germany is glad to have her nuclear generators to be able to keep them online. As climate change makes carbon energy ever more problematic, the diverse sources of supply that TVA already has become very important.  4.Hugh savings: There really is no such thing as a free lunch I really want Memphis to flourish. Limited resources require that we focus on the good stuff (and not repeat our Thomas H Allen steam plant mistake). I'll be glad to help however I can. To an external observer it would appear that MLGW prefers conflict with its most important supplier rather than cooperation. (I have personally experienced that in MLGW's approach to telecommunications.) As a business owner, I would like to see much more cooperation and candid discussions between these two important companies.To an external observer it would appear that MLGW prefers conflict with its most important supplier rather than cooperation. (I have personally experienced that in MLGW's approach to telecommunications.) As a business owner, I would like to see much more cooperation and candid discussions between these two important companies</p>
<p>TVA's dumping of coal ash in our city without any chance for public comment is reason enough to dump this contract. Although we might not see savings in the short term we should be looking toward an energy supplier that is geared toward our new energy future, which TVA is not. The idea that the city can even trust TVA feels ludacris considering that they bypassed Memphis and went straight to the state level to get permits issued for this dump behind our back.  I am a voter and I will be paying attention.</p>
<p>I would like to say that I support keeping TVA as my electric service provider, through MLGW. I see no need to change to another provider, which might increase our bills significantly. I would, however, like to see MLGW improve its infrastructure regarding its ability to sustain power during the significant storms that we have in the Memphis area. I lose power during almost every storm...major or not. I would prefer not to have to buy a generator.</p>

Question/Comment
<p>I am writing to briefly express my support for keeping TVA as MLGW's electricity supplier. TVA has a solid and longstanding history of providing consistent and reliable electricity delivery to Memphis. I am concerned that pivoting to an alternative provider will put reliable service delivery in jeopardy, to the detriment of the families, businesses, health care providers and key industries in the community.</p>
<p>I used to own a small beauty services business and it was very important to me that my power be on and affordable. As a small business owner, my utility payments were sometimes a struggle to make and I was constantly concerned about the impact it would have on my eyelash customers. Having lived in multiple states including California, I know what it is like to have your power go out in planned cycles or more often than not, unexpectedly. I want MLGW to keep the power on! TVA and MLGW seem to work for Memphis, why mess that up?</p>
<p>As a homeowner, the most important thing to me is that we have power that is affordable. We need resources and community partners that understand that many Memphian's are not well off and struggle with the most basic things, including paying their light bills. If working with TVA means that my utilities will be less or more affordable, I am all for it.</p>
<p>If I understood the City Council's rules, wouldn't a 20 year contract with TVA have to be approved by the City Council? So "the process" would not end yet until the council voted on it.</p>
<p>Please stay with TVA. They have a long track record of delivering reliable power. Reliable power is far more important than cheap power.</p>
<p>In my opinion we should stay with TVA and enter a long term agreement.</p>
<p>The Southern Alliance for Clean Energy (SACE) is a nonprofit organization that advocates for clean and equitable energy choices to ensure clean, safe, and healthy communities throughout the Southeast. We have more than 4,400 members in Memphis and Shelby County. We have been deeply involved in work with MLGW, with an eye toward helping make energy more affordable and clean, first with the 2017 redesign of the Share the Pennies program, then through MLGW's alternative power supply process, particularly as a member of MLGW's Power Supply Advisory Team (PSAT). Since our service on the PSAT, we have continued to closely follow the proceeding of MLGW's integrated resource plan (IRP) and request for proposals (RFP) processes, and have weighed in numerous times with comments to the staff and board, to the press, and have done extensive work providing educational materials to our members and the Shelby County community. MLGW's decision on its future power supply is one of the most consequential single decisions that any community has made in the history of SACE's work throughout the Southeast region over the past three decades. Billions of dollars, millions of tons of pollution, and most importantly hundreds of thousands of individuals' quality of life are on the line with this decision. Given this significance, it is essential that the MLGW staff and board uphold a high level of diligence and transparency to ensure that the final decision made is in the community's best interest. Part of this duty is meaningfully incorporating public input and diverse perspectives, as MLGW has previously done at several key points in the alternative power supply process. We appreciate the opportunity to submit public comments following MLGW staff's power supply recommendation given on September 1, but we request that more time be allowed for public comment in order to allow and promote meaningful and effective public participation. Without sufficient time to understand and react to the material shared on September 1, the public comment period may act as a mere formality in a functionally predetermined decision. As a specific example of why more time is needed, SACE requested clarifying information from MLGW staff on GDS' analysis presented on June 9 more than 40 days ago, and while the request has been acknowledged our questions remain unanswered. Without MLGW providing forthcoming and transparent answers to fundamental questions informing the analysis, the public is held back from submitting informed public comments in an effective way that actually helps inform any eventual decision in a manner necessitated by the enormity of the decision's impacts. Rather the public must have both forthcoming and transparent information about MLGW's analysis and enough time to understand and respond to that information. Subsequently, MLGW must allow plenty of time to review and respond to the public input received. We respectfully request that the official comment period be extended to a minimum of 60 days after the September 1 presentation, including a minimum of 30 days after MLGW staff provides answers to clarifying questions about the June 9 and September 1 presentations to help public input shape outcomes that best benefit the community. Thank you for your consideration.  Stephen Smith  Executive Director,  Southern Alliance for Clean Energy</p>
<p>Personally, affordability is always going to be a priority but as a community, we need to be thinking about ways that ensure reliability. TVA has consistently provided power to Memphis and to many others without disruption. The impact that brownouts or power outages could have on daily business is significant. In my role as a construction project manager, if we do not have reliable power, we can not ensure that our customers are on schedule. This means additional costs and long term economic challenges. Let's stick with what works.</p>
<p>I support the suburban mayors in voicing their concern about representation on the MLGW board. Moving forward with TVA should mean moving forward as a whole community. MLGW and TVA provide resources that impact the lives of people across Shelby County, not just the City of Memphis. Please consider the municipal voices at the same time you are considering renewing your partnership with TVA. A long term partnership should provide the best economic benefits for all MLGW users but it should also allow room for growth in the voice of those outside of the City who are a significant portion of the users. Thank you for your consideration.</p>
<p>Do you plan on building more power supply towers? If so, where?</p>
<p>Memphis needs a reliable and proven source for our electricity. TVA has proven to be the partner Memphis needs. What is happening in other parts of the country with rolling blackouts is not what Memphis needs from an unproven source. KeepTVA.</p>

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<p>We should absolutely stay with TVA. I'm very satisfied with the service and cost of utilities. They are tried, true and reliable. We know them and we trust them. My experience in business is whenever a new vendor is hired, it comes with a whole host of unforeseen "issues" that were not considered or anticipated. With the way things are now, we don't need more uncertainty.</p>
<p>While I think it's probably a good idea to remain with TVA, I question why a 20-year contract is being considered. This is an awfully long time. Given the history of TVA with Memphis/Shelby County, I think a 5-year plan is better. Why is it that TVA has so much money it can spread around for "community projects" and other items? Does this mean they charge too much? I think TVA's relationship with Memphis/Shelby County deserves more scrutiny. They take us for granted. We do not need to be bound to them for 20 years. - Paula F. Casey, Memphis, TN</p>
<p>I am an MLGW customer and have tried to keep up with the important decision around our electric provider. Please extend the proposed 30-day public comment period to 60 days and take an additional 30 days for your own review period of our comments. We are already almost halfway through the 30-day public comment period proposed on Sept. 1, 2022 and there are over 5,000 pages and dense information to pore over. I ask that you NOT vote on a resolution to recommend a power supplier before November 30, 2022 to ensure all the voices of your ratepayers are considered. This has been the ONLY opportunity to weigh public input on the RFP and power supply recommendation throughout this 3+ year process. I would appreciate a response within 5 days. Thank you for your service on the MLGW Board.</p>
<p>Given that TVA sidestepped our city government on its's decision to dump coal ash in our city Memphis needs to come to the table from a position of strength to secure the deal that serves our environmental needs of our city and our planet. I am a MLGW customer and have tried to keep up with the important decision around our electric provider. Please extend the proposed 30-day public comment period to 60 days and take an additional 30 days for your own review period of our comments. We are already almost halfway through the 30-day public comment period proposed on Sept. 1, 2022 and there are over 5,000 pages and dense information to pour over. I ask that you NOT vote on a resolution to recommend a power supplier before November 30, 2022 to ensure all the voices of your ratepayers are considered. This has been the ONLY opportunity to weigh public input on the RFP and power supply recommendation throughout this 3+ year process. I would appreciate response within 5 days. Thank you for your service on the MLGW Board.</p>
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We write on behalf of Protect Our Aquifer (POA) and Memphis Community Against Pollution (MCAP) to respectfully request additional time (at minimum an additional 30 days) to comment on the MLGW staff recommendation regarding the power supply decision. We further request that the Board specify a reasonable period of time (at minimum 30 days after the close of comment) for its own review and consideration of public comments before voting on the staff recommendation. This minimum 90-day timeline would be consistent with the timeline that Mayor Strickland described in public statements to the Memphis Commercial Appeal,<sup>1</sup> and would result in a vote by the Board no sooner than November 30, 2022.

At the September 1, 2022, Board meeting, MLGW staff indicated in its presentation that "public comments welcomed," including at Board meetings "at Board's discretion, but not less than 30-day period."<sup>2</sup> The Board has only two regularly-scheduled meetings between now and the end of the 30-day period, including one on September 7, just days after MLGW staff (1) presented its "RFP update"—an analysis with significantly different results than those presented on June 9; and (2) released hundreds of pages of bid information for public review. Because, despite repeated requests, the public did not gain access to the bid information until September 1, and because of the divergence of the September 1 analysis from the June 9 analysis presented by GDS, POA and MCAP respectfully request at minimum an additional 30 days to comment.

<sup>3</sup> Our understanding is that the current 30-day period expires on October 1, 2022, a Saturday. Our request, if granted, would provide an additional 30-day period for public comment ending October 31, 2022, a Monday. Further, MLGW did not specify a period of time after the close of public comment for the Board's review and consideration of the information shared by the public. In fact, MLGW staff's presentation indicated that staff will ask the Board to vote on a resolution approving staff's recommendation at an unspecified "later date this year."<sup>4</sup> Presumably, that "later date" could be as soon as the first regular meeting after expiration of 30 days, or October 5. For the reasons discussed below, the Board must demand that MLGW staff clarify that it will not bring its recommendation forward for a vote until a reasonable amount of time after the close of public comment. If our request is granted, the Board would have 30 days to review public comment, resulting in a vote no sooner than November 30.

The Board must have adequate time to meaningfully consider public comment. Otherwise, the Board risks the appearance of merely rubber-stamping the staff recommendation. It is particularly important that the Board's decision-making process be open and transparent because of the existing relationships between TVA and MLGW. TVA is MLGW's current power provider, and the utilities' decades-long relationship gives TVA unique access to MLGW and its customers. Indeed, recent news reports reveal that TVA spent the past several years lobbying suburban governments served by MLGW to support the federal utility's bid.<sup>5</sup> TVA is also MLGW's largest water customer, giving the federal utility another advantage in this decision-making process and adding another reason why it is important that the Board carefully evaluate independent, third-party perspectives shared during the public comment period.

<sup>1</sup> Sam Hardiman, 'Just trying to get a head start': Mayor Strickland won't see MLGW bids until public does, Memphis Commercial Appeal (August 22, 2022), <https://www.commercialappeal.com/story/news/2022/08/22/memphis-mayor-jim-strickland-wont-see-mlgw-bids-until-public-does/7860666001/> ("I'm comfortable with it. I would have preferred to have it before. But... the MLGW board is going to wait 90 before they vote and that's a minimum," Strickland said.)

<sup>2</sup> MLGW, MLGW Power Supply RFP Update and Management Recommendation, p. 29 (September 1, 2022) (September 1 Presentation), [https://www.mlgw.com/images/content/files/pdf/MLGW%20Power%20Supply%20RFP%20Update%20and%20Recommendation%20\(2022\\_Sep\\_01\)\\_4.pdf](https://www.mlgw.com/images/content/files/pdf/MLGW%20Power%20Supply%20RFP%20Update%20and%20Recommendation%20(2022_Sep_01)_4.pdf).

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I am strongly opposed to signing a long term deal with the TVA when we are yet to see a fair process for other viable options... Can anyone explain why MLGW so adamite to jump into this contract without a fair RFP process? Or why they are so dead set on signing this so quickly without reasonable negotiations?!? What is the negative to taking our time and making sure we have properly assessed all options or at least negotiated the best possible terms with TVA??? It simply makes no logical sense to me. In short, I could not be more opposed to signing this deal right now and will be very disappointed if we do..

I'm totally disgusted with the [seemingly] endless power in terms of cost, supply, and control that TVA wields over customers. A major question for MLGW is, "Why on earth would Memphians want to lock themselves into putting up with this TVA beast another 20 years?" It's time for a change!

LETTER ATTACHED - The Southern Alliance for Clean Energy (SACE) is a nonprofit organization that advocates for clean and equitable energy choices to ensure clean, safe, and healthy communities throughout the Southeast. We have more than 4,400 members in Memphis and Shelby County, and have been involved in work with MLGW, including as a member of MLGW's Power Supply Advisory Team (PSAT). After the MLGW staff recommended that MLGW sign the never-ending long-term contract with TVA, the MLGW Board had TVA's CEO speak at its meeting on September 7. TVA's long-term contract would prevent MLGW from ever assessing power supply alternatives again. Therefore, before MLGW closes the door on that option permanently, it is prudent that the MLGW Board hear more about some of the projects and proposals that were developed in response to MLGW's power supply RFP. Therefore, we recommend that the MGLW Board invite willing bidders to provide comments to or have a question-and-answer session with the MLGW Board at one of its future meetings. MLGW's decision on its future power supply is a very consequential decision. Billions of dollars, millions of tons of pollution, and most importantly hundreds of thousands of individuals' quality of life are on the line with this decision. It should not be made after hearing only one side of the story.

I am both puzzled and appalled by the brief duration offered for the Public to examine MLGW's recent proposal. Please extend the proposed 30-day public comment period to 120 days to examine the 5000+ pages. Also, please take an additional 30 days for your own review period of our comments. The proposed review period of a mere 30 days is disrespectful, unreasonable and outlandish. A decision by MLGW that is as impactful as this demands great attention and discussion before reaching a hasty conclusion as the one MLGW recommends, and I am requesting that you NOT vote on a resolution to recommend a power supplier before January 31, 2023 to ensure all the voices of your ratepayers are considered. This has been the ONLY opportunity to weigh public input on the RFP and power supply recommendation throughout this 3+ year process. I would appreciate response within 5 days. Thank you for your service on the MLGW Board.

I want TVA. I don't want a change away from a proven supplier.

Question/Comment
<p>I am a MLGW customer and renewable energy advocate and have been following this important decision around our electric provider for the past few years.</p> <p>Please keep in mind when the term "carbon free" is used in response to your renewable energy inquiry, it does not mean the same thing as renewables. Please ask how much of their portfolio is solely renewable versus carbon free. Ask them to state what else is included in their definition of "carbon free" and how much nuclear actually makes up that portfolio vs renewables.</p> <p>Also, please extend the proposed 30-day public comment period to 60 days and take an additional 30 days for your own review period of our comments. We are already almost halfway through the 30-day public comment period proposed on Sept. 1, 2022 and there is I am a MLGW customer and renewable energy advocate and have been following this important decision around our electric provider for the past few years.</p> <p>Please keep in mind when the term "carbon free" is used in response to your renewable energy inquiry, it does not mean the same thing as renewables. Please ask how much of their portfolio is solely renewable versus carbon free. Ask them to state what else is included in their definition of "carbon free" and how much nuclear actually makes up that portfolio vs renewables.</p> <p>Also, please extend the proposed 30-day public comment period to 60 days and take an additional 30 days for your own review period of our comments. We are already almost halfway through the 30-day public comment period proposed on Sept. 1, 2022 and there is so much information for the public to take time to read through and understand and most people are just trying to make ends meet. I ask that you NOT vote on a resolution to recommend a power supplier before November 30, 2022 to ensure all the voices of your ratepayers are considered. We need more time than 30 days for meaningful public input when the RFP process has taken over 3 years.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration to extend the public comment period, please continue to ask challenging questions of our future power supplier and thank you for your service on the MLGW Board.</p>
<p>How does signing a contract with the TVA which requires a 20 year notice before termination protect MLGW customers ability to negotiate or leverage conversation for more favorable rates, stronger commitment to green power sources, and greater concern for the quality of our air and water? I am a MLGW customer and have tried to keep up with the important decision around our electric provider. Please extend the proposed 30-day public comment period to 60 days and take an additional 30 days for your own review period of our comments. We are already almost halfway through the 30-day public comment period proposed on Sept. 1, 2022 and there are over 5,000 pages and dense information to pour over. I ask that you NOT vote on a resolution to recommend a power supplier before November 30, 2022 to ensure all the voices of your ratepayers are considered.</p> <p>Committing MLGW, and all of its customers, to such a long term automatically renewing contract with 20 years notice required to change does not protect our interests or ability to negotiate rates or the actions of the TVA which have impact on our communities's health, safety and local control.</p> <p>TVA's history of care for some of our neighborhoods is rather tarnished. How can we have leverage to advocate for better treatment in the future under the terms of a contract which protects the financial future of the TVA, without offering opportunity for PEOPLE to protect their environmental health and safety or economic interests?</p> <p>This has been the ONLY opportunity to weigh public input on the RFP and power supply recommendation throughout this 3+ year process. I would appreciate response within 5 days. Thank you for your service on the MLGW Board.</p>
<p>My name is Mikhaila Markham – I'm a resident of Memphis and an MLGW customer.</p> <p>Over the past few weeks, I've heard many different opinions regarding our electric provider options. Personally, I believe TVA's record of gross environmental injustice should be enough to end MLGW's interest in contracting with them. But I understand there are many considerations here – in fact, I recently learned there are thousands of pages to consider. I feel you could have presented this information in a more accessible way for your ratepayers.</p> <p>While I certainly do not have time to review all of these lengthy proposals, trusted members of our community have stepped up to do so. But 30 days is not enough time for this review. Please extend the public comment period to a minimum of 60 days.</p>
<p>I am writing to request that the suburban municipalities be granted representation on MLG&amp;W's Board of Directors, since currently the seven suburban cities and their populations amounting to some 35% of MLG&amp;W users are not directly represented.</p> <p>I also wish to speak against the expansion of so-called Green or Renewable Energy generation since they have proven themselves to be unreliable, cf., the recent widespread power outages in Texas and current power shortages/rationing in California.</p>
<p>I am a MLGW customer and have tried to keep up with the important decision around our electric provider, and I'm deeply concerned that our community hasn't had sufficient time to review and submit comments. Please extend the proposed 30-day public comment period to 60 days and take an additional 30 days for your own review period of our comments. We are already almost halfway through the 30-day public comment period proposed on Sept. 1, 2022 and there are over 5,000 pages of dense information to pour over. I ALSO ask that you NOT vote on a resolution to recommend a power supplier before November 30, 2022 to ensure all the voices of your ratepayers are considered. This has been the ONLY opportunity to weigh public input on the RFP and power supply recommendation throughout this 3+ year process. I would appreciate response within 5 days. Thank you for your service on the MLGW Board.</p>
<p>Please update the board of MLGW to represent those from other consuming cities like Germantown. We would like our voice heard.</p>
<p>I'm writing in response to an email sent by the mayor of Germantown, TN. Germantown and other suburbs should have a voice in electing our utility service.</p>
<p>Also, I'm an owner of property in Arkansas serviced by Entergy. I rate them far superior to MLGW. Entergy notifies customers of outages, estimated repair times, how many customers effected, etc. Just sign up on their website for notifications.</p> <p>I've lived in Shelby County since 1974 and have been pleased with MLGW rates and service. There is much room for communication services.</p>

Question/Comment
<p>Below is an article sent to the residents of Germantown, reflecting the need for board representation. In addition, we support remaining with TVA and negotiating a shorter contracting period with TVA and a renewed call for TVA investment in West Tennessee, Shelby County and the municipalities within Shelby County.</p>
<p>Welcome back to Mayor's Minute. Recently, I expressed my thoughts in a Daily Memphian op-ed piece on the ongoing developments with Memphis Light, Gas and Water and the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA). We also polled your own views in a survey here and the majority of you agreed that the suburbs need a stronger voice in MLGW conversations. Now, as MLGW leaders consider entering into a 20-year contract with the TVA, they've opened up the discussion for public comment at PowerSupply@mlgw.org. I urge you to join me in speaking out and emphasizing the need for MLGW to expand its board so a balanced representation of its ratepayers can have a say in important decisions such as the current one. As I stated in my op-ed piece, an estimated 30 to 35% of MLGW's commercial and residential customers reside outside the City of Memphis. There needs to be a voice and vote on the MLGW board that reflects everyone impacted by its services. It's time for MLGW leadership and Board of Commissioners to make the necessary changes to include representation from the entire service area on the board, instead of restricting voting membership only to Memphis residents. The issue is much larger than merely considering a supplier change or the length of time in which we engage those services. It's also about expanding ratepayer rights, representation and voice throughout the MLGW footprint. The MLGW board should represent the entire region with equity. Otherwise, decisions such as the current agreement with the TVA aren't a true reflection of how all ratepayers truly feel. Please join me in emailing PowerSupply@mlgw.org with your thoughts through Sept. 30. As always, it's an honor to serve you as your Mayor. Please feel free to reach out to me at any time at Mayor@Germantown-TN.gov. Have a wonderful weekend, Mayor Mike</p>
<p>I agree with the Germantown Mayor on this position of expanded voices</p>
<p>I am a resident of Germantown, TN and have been a customer of MLGW since 1977. Recently, I learned that 30 to 35% of MLGW's commercial and residential customers reside outside the City of Memphis. Please consider expanding the MLGW board, so there is balanced representation among all ratepayers, giving those of us outside of the city of Memphis a say or stake in important decisions that impact all of us using your services. MLGW leadership and Board of Commissioners, please make the necessary changes to include representation from the entire service area on the board, instead of restricting voting membership to Memphis residents only.</p>
<p>I would like to see representation from all the surrounding cities on the Board of MLGW and it's leadership team. I am a resident of a Germantown and feel my input for long and short term issues needs to be heard and considered.</p>
<p>Stay with the security of TVA to supply electricity</p>
<p>We need to stay with TVA. We have low cost electricity and a provider that has a consistent supply chain. Change requires Shelby County to pay for infrastructure and work with a broker that buys electricity from another party. We have a consistent electrical &amp; gas supply with TVA. Don't change what isn't broken.</p>
<p>As MLGW considers entering into a 20-year contract with the TVA, there needs to be a voice and vote on the MLGW board that reflects everyone impacted by its services. It's time for MLGW leadership and Board of Commissioners to make the necessary changes to include representation from the entire service area on the board, instead of restricting voting membership only to Memphis residents.</p>
<p>I am urging you to continue with the RFP process in order to further verify potential savings and environmental benefits with alternative power supplies.</p>
<p>In order to truly know what the best option is for our energy future, MLGW must see this process through to the end, and get all the information on the table to make an informed decision.</p>
<p>I believe there exists a once-in-a-generation opportunity to chart a more clean, affordable, and equitable energy future, but in order to realize this future, you must act accordingly. Allow the RFP process to reach its conclusion, and then make the most informed decision you can that will be best for Memphis. We deserve to have more clean, affordable, and equitable energy choices, and you have the power to make that happen. I urge you to use it.</p>
<p>ATTACHED LETTER SENT TO FRANK ON 9/22/22 - Please find attached a request for additional time to comment on the power supply recommendation. We originally submitted this request on behalf of Protect Our Aquifer and Memphis Community Against Pollution on September 6, and we have not yet received a response from MLGW. POA and MCAP respectfully request additional time (at minimum an additional 30 days) to comment on the MLGW staff recommendation regarding the power supply decision. We further request that the Board specify a reasonable period of time (at minimum 30 days after the close of comment) for its own review and consideration of public comments before voting on the staff recommendation. This minimum 90-day timeline would be consistent with the timeline that Mayor Strickland described in public statements to the Memphis Commercial Appeal, and would result in a vote by the Board no sooner than November 30, 2022. The basis for this request is provided in the attached letter.</p>
<p>POA and MCAP and their supporters reside in Memphis and many of their supporters are MLGW ratepayers. We respectfully request that this request be provided to the Board and read into the record during the public comment session at the September 21, 2022 Board meeting. We also submitted this request on September 6, 2022 to PowerSupply@MLGW.org.</p>
<p>I am requesting a response to a 30-day extension for public comments on the staff recommended Power Supply decision. Southern Environmental Law Center (SELC) first requested this extension on behalf of Protect Our Aquifer and MCAP and on Sept. 6. SECOND EMAIL RESPONDING TO JT - Thank you for this clarification and context. Sounds like we should expect a response from the Board then. I'm glad to hear there will be two public meetings on this topic and comments will continue to be accepted past Sept. 30. Can I be included on any email or meeting notice that goes out announcing the public meeting dates?here seems to be a large gap in communication and understanding of this process. The information you provided to me is helpful. Can this be added to the Power Supply webpage, MLGW social media channels, news reports, etc.?</p>
<p>I do hope MLGW staff is also interested in public input. We respectfully request that no resolution is presented to the Board before the November 2, 2022 meeting to ensure Commissioners have adequate time to review public comments and are not feeling pressured from the staff to make this discussion.</p>
<p>Thank you for the quick response! I also appreciate your leadership in this effort.Numerous ratepayers have requested this extension. 30 days is simply not enough time to review this information and translate the technical aspects to your customers - a service we provide free of charge. We have requested this extension on Sept. 6 and Sept 19 via emailed letter, Sept. 7 and Sept. 21 via verbal public comment, and with 21 individual email requests from POA supporters and ratepayers between Sept 15 and 19. Why hasn't MLGW provided a response?. The time and energy spent on this issue, reading the TVA never-ending LTP, and digging through bid proposals is not for fun. Nor is it to make your job harder. It is to provide thoughtful, fact-based input to assist in your decision-making from your RATEPAYERS and community leaders.Ignoring these requests from your ratepayers with no response at all is unacceptable. Please reply to this email with MLGW's decision by 5pm on Thursday, 9/22, or provide a response as to why MLGW leadership's mind is not made up on this simple request.</p>







Question/Comment
<p>I am urging you NOT to sign TVA's "long-term" forever contract. Doing so would give up any leverage we have to negotiate a better deal with TVA or realize potential savings that may exist in a future independent power supply portfolio.</p> <p>The 30-40% increase in our bills this past summer was largely the result of TVA passing their increased costs from reliance on fossil fuels on to customers, yet they're still planning to increase gas usage, which will continue to affect our utility bills.</p> <p>TVA would continue to limit our ability to invest in local solar projects and energy efficiency programs, instead using the money from our electricity bills to fund big fossil plants and pipelines.</p> <p>I adamantly oppose signing over "our" rights to TVA. Leave this door open for the sake of our citizens and many with limited resources, as well as our grandchildren , who deserve a clean energy future.</p> <p>Memphis is one of the best positioned cities in the nation to benefit from the transition to clean energy, which would result in lower bills, less pollution, better public health, and more economic growth and good jobs. Numerous studies, and even MLGW's IRP and initial RFP proposals, confirmed these benefits if MLGW switched who it buys electricity from.</p> <p>Inflation has temporarily increased the price tag of achieving this future. But inflation is easing, bringing the massive savings and environmental benefits of alternative power supplies back within reach. The recently passed Inflation Reduction Act also provides incentives that will make clean energy easier and more affordable to install.</p> <p>MLGW staff's recommendation to lock us into a never-ending contract with TVA signs away our freedom to seek cleaner and more affordable energy in the future. Signing TVA's forever contract would be making a forever decision based on already outdated information and current circumstances that defy future trends in the energy marketplace.</p> <p>Signing TVA's long-term contract is not the best option for MLGW ratepayers. It would commit tens of billions of Memphians' dollars to TVA for generations to come and would be a betrayal of Memphians' future. It is also an insult to tie us to TVA given the way they have treated Memphis in recent years, with their behind-closed-doors decision to move toxic coal ash through South Memphis for the next 10 years, along with increased costs passed directly onto Memphis ratepayers due to poor planning by continuing to rely on dirty and volatile fossil fuels, and their overall lack of attention to Memphis, their largest customer, until the last few years when we started to consider finding another electricity provider.</p> <p>Now is simply not the time for MLGW to sign any long term contract, especially not a forever contract with TVA. Instead, I ask that you remain on the current contract with TVA to keep the door open for new opportunities for transformational benefits for Memphians. Memphis still has the power to realize a more affordable, equitable, and clean energy future, but only if you make the right decision and allow the energy market to stabilize before making any decision about our future power supplier.</p> <p><b>Memphis still has the power to achieve a more affordable, equitable, and clean energy future, don't give it away by signing TVA's forever contract.</b></p>
<p>We need a power buy back provision. As a homeowner I want to install solar. I would produce excess power in the day and can sell this power to MLGW or TVA. This is needed, and is a win/win. Home owners producing solar power must be paid a fair price. We all get clean solar power.</p>
<p>I am urging you NOT to sign TVA's "long-term" forever contract. Doing so would give up any leverage we have to negotiate a better deal with TVA or realize potential savings that may exist in a future independent power supply portfolio.</p> <p>Memphis is one of the best positioned cities in the nation to benefit from the transition to clean energy, which would result in lower bills, less pollution, better public health, and more economic growth and good jobs. Numerous studies, and even MLGW's IRP and initial RFP proposals, confirmed these benefits if MLGW switched who it buys electricity from.</p> <p>Inflation has temporarily increased the price tag of achieving this future. But inflation is easing, bringing the massive savings and environmental benefits of alternative power supplies back within reach. The recently passed Inflation Reduction Act also provides incentives that will make clean energy easier and more affordable to install.</p> <p>MLGW staff's recommendation to lock us into a never-ending contract with TVA signs away our freedom to seek cleaner and more affordable energy in the future. Signing TVA's forever contract would be making a forever decision based on already outdated information and current circumstances that defy future trends in the energy marketplace.</p> <p>Signing TVA's long-term contract is not the best option for MLGW ratepayers. It would commit tens of billions of Memphians' dollars to TVA for generations to come and would be a betrayal of Memphians' future. It is also an insult to tie us to TVA given the way they have treated Memphis in recent years, with their behind-closed-doors decision to move toxic coal ash through South Memphis for the next 10 years, along with increased costs passed directly onto Memphis ratepayers due to poor planning by continuing to rely on dirty and volatile fossil fuels, and their overall lack of attention to Memphis, their largest customer, until the last few years when we started to consider finding another electricity provider.</p> <p>Now is simply not the time for MLGW to sign any long term contract, especially not a forever contract with TVA. Instead, I ask that you remain on the current contract with TVA to keep the door open for new opportunities for transformational benefits for Memphians. Memphis still has the power to realize a more affordable, equitable, and clean energy future, but only if you make the right decision and allow the energy market to stabilize before making any decision about our future power supplier.</p> <p><b>Memphis still has the power to achieve a more affordable, equitable, and clean energy future, don't give it away by signing TVA's forever contract.</b></p>
<p>There is absolutely no way I can cogently review 5,100 pages of proposals within one week. And I am professionally qualified to review them. It would take me at least a week to find and hire a specialist to review the RFPs, from which point would requires months —if not slightly longer— to evaluate. And I may not agree with their opinion. This public review period must be extended. You guys have dragged it out this long. Don't keep blocking the public from the information you've had access to for ages.</p>

**Question/Comment**

DO. NOT. SIGN. TVA's "long-term" forever contract. Doing so would give up any leverage we have to negotiate a better deal with TVA or realize potential savings that may exist in a future independent power supply portfolio.  
\*\* WE, YOUR CUSTOMERS, DO NOT WANT TO BE LOCKED IN TO THIS CONTRACT! YOU MAY COME AND GO AS BOARD MEMBERS , BUT WE ARE PERMANENT RESIDENTS! NO ONE WOULD EVER SIGN A "FOREVER", NON-NEGOTIABLE CONTRACT!  
HAVE YOU LOST YOUR MINDS?  
WHAT DO YOU PEOPLE GAIN PERSONALLY FROM SIGNING THIS CONTRACT???  
YOU NEED TO FULLY DISCLOSE TO MEMPHIS RESIDENTS YOU REASONING BEHIND THIS DECISION.  
DO NOT SIGN THIS CONTRACT. I REPEAT: DO NOT SIGN THIS CONTRACT.

Memphis is one of the best positioned cities in the nation to benefit from the transition to clean energy, which would result in lower bills, less pollution, better public health, and more economic growth and good jobs. Numerous studies, and even MLGW's IRP and initial RFP proposals, confirmed these benefits if MLGW switched who it buys electricity from.

Inflation has temporarily increased the price tag of achieving this future. But inflation is easing, bringing the massive savings and environmental benefits of alternative power supplies back within reach. The recently passed Inflation Reduction Act also provides incentives that will make clean energy easier and more affordable to install.

MLGW staff's recommendation to lock us into a never-ending contract with TVA signs away our freedom to seek cleaner and more affordable energy in the future. Signing TVA's forever contract would be making a forever decision based on already outdated information and current circumstances that defy future trends in the energy marketplace.

Signing TVA's long-term contract is not the best option for MLGW ratepayers. It would commit tens of billions of Memphians' dollars to TVA for generations to come and would be a betrayal of Memphians' future. It is also an insult to tie us to TVA given the way they have treated Memphis in recent years, with their behind-closed-doors decision to move toxic coal ash through South Memphis for the next 10 years, along with increased costs passed directly onto Memphis ratepayers due to poor planning by continuing to rely on dirty and volatile fossil fuels, and their overall lack of attention to Memphis, their largest customer, until the last few years when we started to consider finding another electricity provider.

Now is simply not the time for MLGW to sign any long term contract, especially not a forever contract with TVA. Instead, I ask that you remain on the current contract with TVA to keep the door open for new opportunities for transformational benefits for Memphians. Memphis still has the power to realize a more affordable, equitable, and clean energy future, but only if you make the right decision and allow the energy market to stabilize before making any decision about our future power supplier.

Memphis still has the power to achieve a more affordable, equitable, and clean energy future, don't give it away by signing TVA's forever contract.

I urge MLGW NOT to sign TVA's 20 year "forever contract" (contract automatically renews every year).

I urge MLGW to move toward Clean Renewable Energy.

Please give these requests due consideration.

I am a MLGW customer and have tried to keep up with the important decision around our electric provider. Please extend the proposed 30-day public comment period to 60 days and take an additional 30 days for your own review period of our comments. We are already almost halfway through the 30-day public comment period proposed on Sept. 1, 2022, and there are over 5,000 pages and dense information to pour over. I ask that you NOT vote on a resolution to recommend a power supplier before November 30, 2022, to ensure all the voices of your ratepayers are considered. This has been the ONLY opportunity to weigh public input on the RFP and power supply recommendation throughout this 3+ year process. I would appreciate a response within 5 days. Thank you for your service on the MLGW Board.

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Question/Comment
<p>Comments I prepared for the MLGW Board of Commissioners meeting 21 September 2022 (I attended this meeting, but I was not called to speak)</p> <p>Chairman Graves:</p> <p>At the last MLGW board meeting (7 September 2022) you asked Mr. Lyash, CEO of TVA, if there was any room to negotiate the terms of the proposed TVA contract- which because of its auto-extension hook, is a never-ending, forever contract. Mr. Lyash's response was: "We (TVA) are Public Power". He also conveyed that TVA is a non-profit and must treat each customer equally, regardless of size.</p> <p>It was as if TVA was being likened to MATA, or the Fire Department or even a farmers co-op.</p> <p>TVA does not act like "Public Power". Why would a "Public Power" company not be willing to share its transmission lines? Why would a "Public Power" company choose to ignore Protect Our Aquifer's continued requests to stop wasting 5 million gallons of our drinking water (per day) to cool their Allen plant?</p> <p>How is it that this "Public Power" company operates as a legally protected monopoly, sets its own rates without regulatory review, and does not pay the federal, state, and local taxes that private utilities pay? How can TVA really deliver the lowest rates while servicing over \$20 billion in outstanding debt, while contributing to a significantly underfunded \$13 billion pension plan, and paying its CEO \$10 million per year?</p> <p>Does that sound like "Public Power" to you?</p> <p>Reform will eventually come to TVA. And when it does there will be options for customers like MLGW and Memphis. We can demand that TVA respect our natural resources and stop wasting our drinking water to cool their Allen plant. And we can receive the meaningful investment we need to help Memphis lower its energy burden- which is now ranked 4th among cities in America.</p> <p>Signing a never-ending contract now will only ensure that the status quo continues at TVA and for the citizens of Memphis for generations. I encourage you to keep your existing contract in place.</p>
<p>Hopefully, legal action will be taken to stop MLGW from signing any new deal with TVA.</p>
<p>Demand a better Deal...I am a MLGW customer and I believe that a never-ending power supply contract with TVA is a bad deal for Memphis. While TVA claims these are "20-year contracts," in reality they automatically extend every year, making it practically impossible for Memphis to explore cheaper or cleaner energy options in the future. Instead of committing to these burdensome, never-ending contracts, MLGW should keep its current five-year contracts with TVA.</p> <p>There are significant risks that come with signing a forever contract with TVA. By signing one of these never-ending agreements, we give up our leverage and lose the ability to negotiate for cheaper, cleaner, and, renewable power options now and in the future. Memphis communities face some of the highest energy burdens in the country, meaning a higher percentage of their income is used to pay their utility bills. We cannot afford to sign away MLGW's ability to negotiate for programs that will lower power bills for the tens of thousands of Memphians facing high energy burdens.</p> <p>TVA also has a significant environmental impact. TVA is planning to spend billions on new methane gas plants and pipelines that will worsen the impacts of climate change. Here in Memphis, TVA recklessly pumps five million gallons of clean water from the Memphis Sand Aquifer every day. If MLGW signs a never-ending contract, we would be unable to fight for a cleaner, healthier Memphis future.</p> <p>There is a better deal for Memphis – now is our chance to take it. Please keep the current, five-year contract, which gives us the ability to push back on bad policies, fight for programs that work for Memphis communities, and leave TVA if things don't get better. Thank you for your service on the MLGW Board.</p>
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<p>Please Delay Your Power Supply Decision and Don't Sign the 20 Year Never ending Contact With TVA I?d like to see more focus on green and renewable energy sources</p> <p>MLGW management and staff, assisted by consultants, have done considerable work analyzing future power supply opportunities. Unfortunately, as the analysis was coming to fruition, major changes have occurred in many of the factors that would affect their decision.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- inflation in fuel costs</li> <li>- inflation in construction costs</li> <li>- contractors becoming more risk averse and raising their prices as a result</li> <li>- President Biden's Inflation Reduction Act</li> </ul> <p>Now, after all the work on the IRA and RFP's, MLGW management is becoming risk averse, and they are recommending that MLGW sign TVA's 20-year evergreen contract.</p> <p>With the continuing changes in the energy marketplace, and possible opportunities for reduced cost of renewable energy, we strongly argue against MLGW signing any long term contract at this time. The market is likely to continue to change, the IRA will be better known, and MLGW will learn how to take advantage of it. TVA's enticement of a discount of slightly over 3% (on a portion of their rates) is small compared to the 8% CAGR (annual decline in solar costs) trend that existed before the pandemic, and which could likely resume in the near future.</p>
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<p>Please Delay Your Power Supply Decision and Don't Sign the 20 Year Never ending Contact</p> <p>Our future leaders need to be able to make their own decisions.MLGW management and staff, assisted by consultants, have done considerable work analyzing future power supply opportunities. Unfortunately, as the analysis was coming to fruition, major changes have occurred in many of the factors that would affect their decision.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- inflation in fuel costs</li> <li>- inflation in construction costs</li> <li>- contractors becoming more risk averse and raising their prices as a result</li> <li>- President Biden's Inflation Reduction Act</li> </ul> <p>Now, after all the work on the IRA and RFP's, MLGW management is becoming risk averse, and they are recommending that MLGW sign TVA's 20-year evergreen contract.</p> <p>With the continuing changes in the energy marketplace, and possible opportunities for reduced cost of renewable energy, we strongly argue against MLGW signing any long term contract at this time. The market is likely to continue to change, the IRA will be better known, and MLGW will learn how to take advantage of it. TVA's enticement of a discount of slightly over 3% (on a portion of their rates) is small compared to the 8% CAGR (annual decline in solar costs) trend that existed before the pandemic, and which could likely resume in the near future.</p>



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<p>Please Delay Your Power Supply Decision and Don't Sign the 20 Year Never ending Contact</p> <p>Please delay your power supply decision and don't sign the 20-year never-ending contract with TVA because we don't want to be locked in with TVA forever. MLGW management and staff, assisted by consultants, have done considerable work analyzing future power supply opportunities. Unfortunately, as the analysis was coming to fruition, major changes have occurred in many of the factors that would affect their decision.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- inflation in fuel costs</li> <li>- inflation in construction costs</li> <li>- contractors becoming more risk averse and raising their prices as a result</li> <li>- President Biden's Inflation Reduction Act</li> </ul> <p>Now, after all the work on the IRA and RFP's, MLGW management is becoming risk averse, and they are recommending that MLGW sign TVA's 20-year evergreen contract.</p> <p>With the continuing changes in the energy marketplace, and possible opportunities for reduced cost of renewable energy, we strongly argue against MLGW signing any long term contract at this time. The market is likely to continue to change, the IRA will be better known, and MLGW will learn how to take advantage of it. TVA's enticement of a discount of slightly over 3% (on a portion of their rates) is small compared to the 8% CAGR (annual decline in solar costs) trend that existed before the pandemic, and which could likely resume in the near future.</p>
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<p>Please Delay Your Power Supply Decision and Don't Sign the 20 Year Never ending Contact</p> <p>The market is so volatile right now - we don't know what the next few years hold. A 20 year exit clause is ridiculous. Stay on the current 5 year contract. MLGW management and staff, assisted by consultants, have done considerable work analyzing future power supply opportunities. Unfortunately, as the analysis was coming to fruition, major changes have occurred in many of the factors that would affect their decision.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- inflation in fuel costs</li> <li>- inflation in construction costs</li> <li>- contractors becoming more risk averse and raising their prices as a result</li> <li>- President Biden's Inflation Reduction Act</li> </ul> <p>Now, after all the work on the IRA and RFP's, MLGW management is becoming risk averse, and they are recommending that MLGW sign TVA's 20-year evergreen contract.</p> <p>With the continuing changes in the energy marketplace, and possible opportunities for reduced cost of renewable energy, we strongly argue against MLGW signing any long term contract at this time. The market is likely to continue to change, the IRA will be better known, and MLGW will learn how to take advantage of it. TVA's enticement of a discount of slightly over 3% (on a portion of their rates) is small compared to the 8% CAGR (annual decline in solar costs) trend that existed before the pandemic, and which could likely resume in the near future.</p>
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<p>Please Delay Your Power Supply Decision and Don't Sign the 20 Year Never ending Contact</p> <p>There is no rush. Take time to find the right solution for our citizens. MLGW management and staff, assisted by consultants, have done considerable work analyzing future power supply opportunities. Unfortunately, as the analysis was coming to fruition, major changes have occurred in many of the factors that would affect their decision.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- inflation in fuel costs</li> <li>- inflation in construction costs</li> <li>- contractors becoming more risk averse and raising their prices as a result</li> <li>- President Biden's Inflation Reduction Act</li> </ul> <p>Now, after all the work on the IRA and RFP's, MLGW management is becoming risk averse, and they are recommending that MLGW sign TVA's 20-year evergreen contract.</p> <p>With the continuing changes in the energy marketplace, and possible opportunities for reduced cost of renewable energy, we strongly argue against MLGW signing any long term contract at this time. The market is likely to continue to change, the IRA will be better known, and MLGW will learn how to take advantage of it. TVA's enticement of a discount of slightly over 3% (on a portion of their rates) is small compared to the 8% CAGR (annual decline in solar costs) trend that existed before the pandemic, and which could likely resume in the near future.</p>
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<p>Please Delay Your Power Supply Decision and Don't Sign the 20 Year Never ending Contact</p> <p>This could not be a worse decision for your long-term. TVA is an old way of thinking. ADAPT! You will save us all money. There are enough memes about MLGW as it is. At the very least, I want to see all bills halved. MLGW management and staff, assisted by consultants, have done considerable work analyzing future power supply opportunities. Unfortunately, as the analysis was coming to fruition, major changes have occurred in many of the factors that would affect their decision.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- inflation in fuel costs</li> <li>- inflation in construction costs</li> <li>- contractors becoming more risk averse and raising their prices as a result</li> <li>- President Biden's Inflation Reduction Act</li> </ul> <p>Now, after all the work on the IRA and RFP's, MLGW management is becoming risk averse, and they are recommending that MLGW sign TVA's 20-year evergreen contract.</p> <p>With the continuing changes in the energy marketplace, and possible opportunities for reduced cost of renewable energy, we strongly argue against MLGW signing any long term contract at this time. The market is likely to continue to change, the IRA will be better known, and MLGW will learn how to take advantage of it. TVA's enticement of a discount of slightly over 3% (on a portion of their rates) is small compared to the 8% CAGR (annual decline in solar costs) trend that existed before the pandemic, and which could likely resume in the near future.</p>

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<p>Please Delay Your Power Supply Decision and Don't Sign the 20 Year Never ending Contact</p> <p>As a retiree, I'm very concerned about future utilities costs and I believe that we should delay any long term commitments and continue to explore and re-evaluate all reasonable alternatives. If, after thoroughly exploring all of our alternatives and determining that TVA is our best alternative, let's contract with them, but only after a rigorous search of our alternatives. MLGW management and staff, assisted by consultants, have done considerable work analyzing future power supply opportunities. Unfortunately, as the analysis was coming to fruition, major changes have occurred in many of the factors that would affect their decision.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- inflation in fuel costs</li> <li>- inflation in construction costs</li> <li>- contractors becoming more risk averse and raising their prices as a result</li> <li>- President Biden's Inflation Reduction Act</li> </ul> <p>Now, after all the work on the IRA and RFP's, MLGW management is becoming risk averse, and they are recommending that MLGW sign TVA's 20-year evergreen contract.</p> <p>With the continuing changes in the energy marketplace, and possible opportunities for reduced cost of renewable energy, we strongly argue against MLGW signing any long term contract at this time. The market is likely to continue to change, the IRA will be better known, and MLGW will learn how to take advantage of it. TVA's enticement of a discount of slightly over 3% (on a portion of their rates) is small compared to the 8% CAGR (annual decline in solar costs) trend that existed before the pandemic, and which could likely resume in the near future.</p>
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<p>Please Delay Your Power Supply Decision and Don't Sign the 20 Year Never ending Contact</p> <p>I think they need to find a way to make the bill smaller because everytime we turn around the bill going up more and more not down they need one set bill or help customers instead of cutting their electric off or make a program that helps MLGW management and staff, assisted by consultants, have done considerable work analyzing future power supply opportunities. Unfortunately, as the analysis was coming to fruition, major changes have occurred in many of the factors that would affect their decision.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- inflation in fuel costs</li> <li>- inflation in construction costs</li> <li>- contractors becoming more risk averse and raising their prices as a result</li> <li>- President Biden's Inflation Reduction Act</li> </ul> <p>Now, after all the work on the IRA and RFP's, MLGW management is becoming risk averse, and they are recommending that MLGW sign TVA's 20-year evergreen contract.</p> <p>With the continuing changes in the energy marketplace, and possible opportunities for reduced cost of renewable energy, we strongly argue against MLGW signing any long term contract at this time. The market is likely to continue to change, the IRA will be better known, and MLGW will learn how to take advantage of it. TVA's enticement of a discount of slightly over 3% (on a portion of their rates) is small compared to the 8% CAGR (annual decline in solar costs) trend that existed before the pandemic, and which could likely resume in the near future.</p>
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<p>Please Delay Your Power Supply Decision and Don't Sign the 20 Year Never ending Contact</p> <p>Hasty decisions are rarely profitable, especially where contracts are involved. Delay your decision. MLGW management and staff, assisted by consultants, have done considerable work analyzing future power supply opportunities. Unfortunately, as the analysis was coming to fruition, major changes have occurred in many of the factors that would affect their decision.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- inflation in fuel costs</li> <li>- inflation in construction costs</li> <li>- contractors becoming more risk averse and raising their prices as a result</li> <li>- President Biden's Inflation Reduction Act</li> </ul> <p>Now, after all the work on the IRA and RFP's, MLGW management is becoming risk averse, and they are recommending that MLGW sign TVA's 20-year evergreen contract.</p> <p>With the continuing changes in the energy marketplace, and possible opportunities for reduced cost of renewable energy, we strongly argue against MLGW signing any long term contract at this time. The market is likely to continue to change, the IRA will be better known, and MLGW will learn how to take advantage of it. TVA's enticement of a discount of slightly over 3% (on a portion of their rates) is small compared to the 8% CAGR (annual decline in solar costs) trend that existed before the pandemic, and which could likely resume in the near future.</p>
<p>You have heard from me many times on the Power Supply issue - I first spoke on this at a Board meeting in April 2022. The never-ending LTP contract with TVA is a bad business decision. Perpetually renewing, a 20-year exit clause, removal of the 3.1% base rate credit during that time, and a maximum local generation of 5%?? Please use this moment to stay on the 5-year contract and leverage our position to negotiate. There is so much opportunity that MLGW/Memphis can take advantage of.</p> <p>We have seen significant market volatility over the past 5+ months. There is no way the numbers GDS presented on Sept. 1 are static. They changed DRASTICALLY from the June 9 presentation alone. With advances in technology and unforeseen benefits of the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), we must keep our options open. MLGW should prepare to use IRA benefits and build out solar programs that will directly benefit ratepayers, reduce energy burden, and reliance on our drinking water supply simply for cooling water.</p> <p>You will receive a formal letter from our attorneys at SELC before the 9/30 deadline. Please read through that letter. It contains extremely important considerations from multiple consultants that further demonstrate the need to stay on the 5-year contract at this time.</p> <p>I know this option may seem like a lackluster ending to the saga that has been the IRP/Power Supply process. But is it truly in the best interest of your customers and the environment we all depend on.</p> <p>I am asking for your leadership in this decision. Please do not approve a resolution that supports TVA's LTP. You know this contract is an outright bad business decision. Feel free to call the number below with any questions, comments, considerations.</p>
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<p>Please Delay Your Power Supply Decision and Don't Sign the 20 Year Never ending Contact</p> <p>As a Tennessee resident and concerned citizen I believe the the energy market today is way to unstable and overpriced to sign any kind of long term agreement for a provide. As a member of the Sierra Club, a lover of our planet, and a committed environmentalist I believe that ther is more thea MLGW can do to control where our energy comes from and the damage that we do to our environment, MLGW can begin by not locking us, as energy consumers, into a deal that could potentially be very bad for us bot near term and long term.As a Memphis customer I would appreciate keeping all our energy options open at this time and not be locked into a 20 YEARS contract with TVA or any other provider! MLGW management and staff, assisted by consultants, have done considerable work analyzing future power supply opportunities. Unfortunately, as the analysis was coming to fruition, major changes have occurred in many of the factors that would affect their decision.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- inflation in fuel costs</li> <li>- inflation in construction costs</li> <li>- contractors becoming more risk averse and raising their prices as a result</li> <li>- President Biden's Inflation Reduction Act</li> </ul> <p>Now, after all the work on the IRA and RFP's, MLGW management is becoming risk averse, and they are recommending that MLGW sign TVA's 20-year evergreen contract.</p> <p>With the continuing changes in the energy marketplace, and possible opportunities for reduced cost of renewable energy, we strongly argue against MLGW signing any long term contract at this time. The market is likely to continue to change, the IRA will be better known, and MLGW will learn how to take advantage of it. TVA's enticement of a discount of slightly over 3% (on a portion of their rates) is small compared to the 8% CAGR (annual decline in solar costs) trend that existed before the pandemic, and which could likely resume in the near future.</p>
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Question/Comment
<p>Please Delay Your Power Supply Decision and Don't Sign the 20 Year Never ending Contact</p> <p>Please consider delaying this decision. Recent inflation has left many households feeling the impact on their monthly expenses, MLGW bills being one of the most costly increases. You owe it to the people of this city to make sure you have made the most informed and beneficial decision possible, and if that means taking more time to do so, then that's what should be done. Local economic impact is always an important factor to consider!! Thank you. MLGW management and staff, assisted by consultants, have done considerable work analyzing future power supply opportunities. Unfortunately, as the analysis was coming to fruition, major changes have occurred in many of the factors that would affect their decision.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- inflation in fuel costs</li> <li>- inflation in construction costs</li> <li>- contractors becoming more risk averse and raising their prices as a result</li> <li>- President Biden's Inflation Reduction Act</li> </ul> <p>Now, after all the work on the IRA and RFP's, MLGW management is becoming risk averse, and they are recommending that MLGW sign TVA's 20-year evergreen contract.</p> <p>With the continuing changes in the energy marketplace, and possible opportunities for reduced cost of renewable energy, we strongly argue against MLGW signing any long term contract at this time. The market is likely to continue to change, the IRA will be better known, and MLGW will learn how to take advantage of it. TVA's enticement of a discount of slightly over 3% (on a portion of their rates) is small compared to the 8% CAGR (annual decline in solar costs) trend that existed before the pandemic, and which could likely resume in the near future.</p>
<p>Please Delay Your Power Supply Decision and Don't Sign the 20 Year Never ending Contact</p> <p>Please take the time to consider the future impacts that could make being locked into a long term contract harmful. MLGW management and staff, assisted by consultants, have done considerable work analyzing future power supply opportunities. Unfortunately, as the analysis was coming to fruition, major changes have occurred in many of the factors that would affect their decision.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- inflation in fuel costs</li> <li>- inflation in construction costs</li> <li>- contractors becoming more risk averse and raising their prices as a result</li> <li>- President Biden's Inflation Reduction Act</li> </ul> <p>Now, after all the work on the IRA and RFP's, MLGW management is becoming risk averse, and they are recommending that MLGW sign TVA's 20-year evergreen contract.</p> <p>With the continuing changes in the energy marketplace, and possible opportunities for reduced cost of renewable energy, we strongly argue against MLGW signing any long term contract at this time. The market is likely to continue to change, the IRA will be better known, and MLGW will learn how to take advantage of it. TVA's enticement of a discount of slightly over 3% (on a portion of their rates) is small compared to the 8% CAGR (annual decline in solar costs) trend that existed before the pandemic, and which could likely resume in the near future.</p>
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<p>Demand a better Deal...I am a MLGW customer and I believe that a never-ending power supply contract with TVA is a bad deal for Memphis. While TVA claims these are "20-year contracts," in reality they automatically extend every year, making it practically impossible for Memphis to explore cheaper or cleaner energy options in the future. Instead of committing to these burdensome, never-ending contracts, MLGW should keep its current five-year contracts with TVA.</p> <p>There are significant risks that come with signing a forever contract with TVA. By signing one of these never-ending agreements, we give up our leverage and lose the ability to negotiate for cheaper, cleaner, and, renewable power options now and in the future. Memphis communities face some of the highest energy burdens in the country, meaning a higher percentage of their income is used to pay their utility bills. We cannot afford to sign away MLGW's ability to negotiate for programs that will lower power bills for the tens of thousands of Memphians facing high energy burdens.</p> <p>TVA also has a significant environmental impact. TVA is planning to spend billions on new methane gas plants and pipelines that will worsen the impacts of climate change. Here in Memphis, TVA recklessly pumps five million gallons of clean water from the Memphis Sand Aquifer every day. If MLGW signs a never-ending contract, we would be unable to fight for a cleaner, healthier Memphis future.</p> <p>There is a better deal for Memphis – now is our chance to take it. Please keep the current, five-year contract, which gives us the ability to push back on bad policies, fight for programs that work for Memphis communities, and leave TVA if things don't get better. Thank you for your service on the MLGW Board.</p>
<p>Demand a better Deal...</p> <p>YOU ALL HAVE A MORAL IMPERATIVE TO ACT IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE PUBLIC AND NOT ALIGN WITH POWER WHO HAS DEMONSTRATED THEIR DEPRAVED INTENT TO HARM THE PEOPLE OF MEMPHIS.</p> <p>I BELIEVE YOU CAN BE MORE INNOVATIVE!</p> <p>I BELIEVE YOU CAN FIND VENDORS TO DO RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS ON THE BEST PATHWAY FORWARD.</p> <p>I BELIEVE YOU CAN AND SHOULD BEHAVE LIKE THE CHANGE AGENTS THAT YOU ARE! ☹️ I am a MLGW customer and I believe that a never-ending power supply contract with TVA is a bad deal for Memphis. While TVA claims these are "20-year contracts," in reality they automatically extend every year, making it practically impossible for Memphis to explore cheaper or cleaner energy options in the future. Instead of committing to these burdensome, never-ending contracts, MLGW should keep its current five-year contracts with TVA.</p> <p>There are significant risks that come with signing a forever contract with TVA. By signing one of these never-ending agreements, we give up our leverage and lose the ability to negotiate for cheaper, cleaner, and, renewable power options now and in the future. Memphis communities face some of the highest energy burdens in the country, meaning a higher percentage of their income is used to pay their utility bills. We cannot afford to sign away MLGW's ability to negotiate for programs that will lower power bills for the tens of thousands of Memphians facing high energy burdens.</p> <p>TVA also has a significant environmental impact. TVA is planning to spend billions on new methane gas plants and pipelines that will worsen the impacts of climate change. Here in Memphis, TVA recklessly pumps five million gallons of clean water from the Memphis Sand Aquifer every day. If MLGW signs a never-ending contract, we would be unable to fight for a cleaner, healthier Memphis future.</p> <p>There is a better deal for Memphis – now is our chance to take it. Please keep the current, five-year contract, which gives us the ability to push back on bad policies, fight for programs that work for Memphis communities, and leave TVA if things don't get better. Thank you for your service on the MLGW Board.</p>

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<p>Don't sign this never-ending TVA contract, I ask that MLGW stays on the 5-year contract. I am a MLGW customer and I believe that a never-ending power supply contract with TVA is a bad deal for Memphis. In their recommendation, GDS Associates only considered the risks of leaving TVA – they did not consider the risks of staying. By signing a never-ending contract with TVA, we give up the power to negotiate for local, renewable options. We would sacrifice this once-in-a-lifetime moment of local leverage over TVA. Memphis communities face some of the highest energy burdens in the country, meaning a higher percentage of their income is used to pay their utility bills. We cannot afford to sign away MLGW's ability to explore cheaper or cleaner energy options in the future. GDS also failed to consider the environmental impact of TVA's multi-billion-dollar gas buildout. Memphis needs to invest in clean energy alternatives instead of more gas pipelines. We must also conserve the Memphis Sand Aquifer instead of recklessly overpumping, as TVA currently pumps 5 million gallons of water daily to cool their existing gas plant. I urge you to take this opportunity to support a cleaner, healthier Memphis future. There is a better deal for Memphis – now is our chance to take it. Please keep the current, 5-year contract, which gives us the ability to push back on bad policies, fight for programs that work for Memphis communities, and leave TVA if things don't get better. Thank you so much for your service on the MLGW Board.</p>
<p>Never, ever should MLGW leave TVA. Not relying on a private entity is the way to go. Private entities are out for profit. The government is not. TVA is a reliable, government entity. We have been with them for decades. They have very good rates, some of the best in the country let alone the world!</p> <p>I have relatives all over the USA. They have terrible electric service. It is unreliable. The rates are much higher than ours. They have horrible rolling rates. Some in Texas have to contract with an electric company. Their rates are based on usage, time of day and supply/demand. They have planned brown outs when usage is high. These can last for hours and go on for many days. We, as a city, would be foolish to go with unpredictable power costs. It would hurt the poor and underserved who likely would not be able to afford the outrageous power rates that we would incur. While power rates have gone up across the USA this year, we still enjoy some of the most affordable rates. We have not had brown outs. Going with a private entity would lead me to believe there is money changing hands in the private sector between those in city government and/or MLGW. There must be an ulterior motive/\$\$\$\$\$. It will all come out in the end. We will know where money changed hands.</p> <p>Leave well enough alone. Work with TVA to help fix our infrastructure. Start working on it now. If the city and MLGW would have started slowly replacing infrastructure decades ago when they realized what needed to be done, we would not be in this situation now.</p>
<p>I am a MLGW customer and I believe that a never-ending power supply contract with TVA is a bad deal for Memphis. While TVA claims these are "20-year contracts," in reality they automatically extend every year, making it practically impossible for Memphis to explore cheaper or cleaner energy options in the future. Instead of committing to these burdensome, never-ending contracts, MLGW should keep its current five-year contracts with TVA.</p> <p>In the meantime, we should look at how to use the river as a steady source of green energy. This is no small challenge so I suggest we contact the Corps of Engineers and utilize Mud Island as a space for research and education and real goals to meet our power needs from one of our greatest resources.</p> <p>There are significant risks that come with signing a forever contract with TVA. By signing one of these never-ending agreements, we give up our leverage and lose the ability to negotiate for cheaper, cleaner, and, renewable power options now and in the future. Memphis communities face some of the highest energy burdens in the country, meaning a higher percentage of their income is used to pay their utility bills. We cannot afford to sign away MLGW's ability to negotiate for programs that will lower power bills for the tens of thousands of Memphians facing high energy burdens.</p> <p>TVA also has a significant environmental impact. TVA is planning to spend billions on new methane gas plants and pipelines that will worsen the impacts of climate change. Here in Memphis, TVA recklessly pumps five million gallons of clean water from the Memphis Sand Aquifer every day. If MLGW signs a never-ending contract, we would be unable to fight for a cleaner, healthier Memphis future.</p> <p>There is a better deal for Memphis – now is our chance to take it. Please keep the current, five-year contract, which gives us the ability to push back on bad policies, fight for programs that work for Memphis communities, and leave TVA if things don't get better. Thank you for your service on the MLGW Board.</p>
<p>EXTEND PUBLIC COMMENT - I am a MLGW customer and have tried to keep up with the important decision around our electric provider. Please extend the proposed 30-day public comment period to 60 days and take an additional 30 days for your own review period of our comments. We are already almost halfway through the 30-day public comment period proposed on Sept. 1, 2022 and there are over 5,000 pages and dense information to pour over. I ask that you NOT vote on a resolution to recommend a power supplier before November 30, 2022 to ensure all the voices of your ratepayers are considered. This has been the ONLY opportunity to weigh public input on the RFP and power supply recommendation throughout this 3+ year process. I would appreciate response within 5 days. Thank you for your service on the MLGW Board.</p>
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<p>With the continuing changes in the energy marketplace, and possible opportunities for reduced cost of renewable energy, we strongly argue against MLGW signing any long term contract at this time. The market is likely to continue to change, the IRA will be better known, and MLGW will learn how to take advantage of it. TVA's enticement of a discount of slightly over 3% (on a portion of their rates) is small compared to the 8% CAGR (annual decline in solar costs) trend that existed before the pandemic, and which could likely resume in the near future.</p>
<p>Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the recommendation that Memphis Light, Gas and Water award the Tennessee Valley Authority a long-term contract for supplying power to MLGW.</p>
<p>We are the Tennessee Municipal Electric Power Association (TMEPA), representing Tennessee's sixty municipal and county owned electric utilities. Collectively, these utilities serve two-thirds of the electric customers in the state and provide 71% of the power. They provide power to every type of community in Tennessee (urban, suburban, rural, dense, sparsely populated) and vary in size from Nashville Electric Service with 426,792 customers to Newbern Electric Department with 1,791 customers. MLGW is a member of TMEPA, but it did not ask us to provide these comments and no one at MLGW contributed to them.</p>
<p>First, we commend MLGW and its employees for conducting an extensive, thorough and open evaluation process on the most complex decision MLGW has ever made. Asking for and assessing numerous proposals to provide power to one of the largest municipal electric utilities in the country and the largest in Tennessee has been an enormous task, particularly given the significant volatility and inflation in the energy and construction sectors. The process has been open with anyone able to submit proposals and to provide feedback and comments, which gives MLGW all the information it needs. After going through this rigorous process, it confirms that MLGW is making the correct decision to sign a long-term partnership agreement with TVA.</p>
<p>In signing with TVA, MLGW, its customers and the community are purchasing power that is reliable, low-cost with stable rates from a public entity that is committed to significantly reducing its carbon emissions and improving every community in the service area. TVA's reliability, low-cost and stable rates are principally due to its diverse portfolio of power generation - nuclear, hydropower, natural gas, solar, coal, wind, and storage. If MLGW were to build its own power generation and/or purchase it from another entity, its customers would be more susceptible to wide fluctuations in rates and service interruptions because of its limited range of power sources. With its multiple types of power sources and large service area, TVA is best suited to provide stable rates, absorb cost fluctuations, manage resource scarcity, and adapt to changes in the energy industry.</p>
<p>In TVA's diverse generation mix are numerous zero-carbon power sources - hydropower, wind, solar, storage, and nuclear, which the later provides roughly 40% of TVA's power without emitting any carbon. TVA has committed and working toward significant carbon reductions with a goal of a 70% reduction of carbon by 2030, 80% reduction by 2035 and net-zero by 2050. While some may want TVA to be more aggressive with its carbon reduction goals, TVA's more deliberate goals will help keep rates low and power reliable as shorter timelines expose TVA to multiple variables that are likely to increase rates and reduce reliable service. To help a community achieve carbon reduction goals, TVA's Long-Term Partnership Agreement that MLGW would be entering into allows each utility to generate up to 5% of its own power. This gives MLGW flexibility and allows it to build solar generation for its own use to still become one of the greenest electric utilities in the state and in TVA's territory while reducing wholesale power costs with reduced rates under the Long-Term Partnership Agreement.</p>
<p>With MLGW staying with TVA, MLGW and the City of Memphis keep ties with the rest of Shelby County and the State of Tennessee. MLGW will keep the same wholesale power provider as the rest of the state aside from Kingsport and will maintain a unity of effort from the State of Tennessee and TVA regarding economic development efforts. Additionally, many municipalities in MLGW's service area passed resolutions requesting MLGW to stay with TVA, so the rest of Shelby County and the municipalities are likely to stay with MLGW which keeps MLGW's rate base broad and helps keep costs lower. The City of Memphis and its residents are an incredibly important part of the State of Tennessee, and we want them to maintain their bonds with the rest of the state and receive the highest level of economic development investment from the State and TVA.</p>
<p>The long-term agreement is a great opportunity for the City of Memphis, MLGW, its customers, and the community, and the recommendation to agree to the it is in line with nearly all the utilities served by TVA. Currently, 57 of the other 59 municipal electric utilities in Tennessee have signed the same long-term agreement that has been recommended to the MLGW Board of Commissioners, and 147 of the 153 utilities served by TVA in the seven-state region have agreed to it.</p>
<p>We appreciate the opportunity to provide comments and feedback on MLGW's decision. If we can be a resource to the Board of Commissioners of the City of Memphis in your decision-making process, please let us know.</p>
<p>I am a MLGW customer and I believe that a never-ending power supply contract with TVA is a bad deal for Memphis. In fact, the proposed contract is unlikely to withstand legal action, as any contract "in perpetuity" may be questionable on its face, whatever the economic justification. While TVA claims these are "20-1 year contracts," in reality they automatically extend every year, making it practically impossible for Memphis to explore cheaper or cleaner energy options in the future. Instead of committing to these burdensome, never-ending contracts, MLGW should keep its current five-year contracts with TVA.</p>
<p>There are significant risks that come with signing a forever contract with TVA. By signing one of these never-ending agreements, we give up our leverage and lose the ability to negotiate for cheaper, cleaner, and renewable power options now and in the future. Memphis communities face some of the highest energy burdens in the country, meaning a higher percentage of their income is used to pay their utility bills. We cannot afford to sign away MLGW's ability to negotiate for programs that will lower power bills for the tens of thousands of Memphians facing high energy burdens.</p>
<p>TVA also has a significant environmental impact. TVA is planning to spend billions on new methane gas plants and pipelines that will worsen the impacts of climate change. Here in Memphis, TVA recklessly pumps five million gallons of clean water from the Memphis Sand Aquifer every day. If MLGW signs a never-ending contract, we would be unable to fight for a cleaner, healthier Memphis future.</p>
<p>There is a better deal for Memphis – now is our chance to take it. Please keep the current, five-year contract, which gives us the ability to push back on bad policies, fight for programs that work for Memphis communities, and leave TVA if things don't get better. Thank you for your service on the MLGW Board.</p>

**Question/Comment**

I am urging you NOT to sign TVA's "long-term" forever contract. Doing so would give up any leverage we have to negotiate a better deal with TVA or realize potential savings that may exist in a future independent power supply portfolio.

Memphis is one of the best positioned cities in the nation to benefit from the transition to clean energy, which would result in lower bills, less pollution, better public health, and more economic growth and good jobs. Numerous studies, and even MLGW's IRP and initial RFP proposals, confirmed these benefits if MLGW switched who it buys electricity from.

Inflation has temporarily increased the price tag of achieving this future. But inflation is easing, bringing the massive savings and environmental benefits of alternative power supplies back within reach. The recently passed Inflation Reduction Act also provides incentives that will make clean energy easier and more affordable to install.

MLGW staff's recommendation to lock us into a never-ending contract with TVA signs away our freedom to seek cleaner and more affordable energy in the future. Signing TVA's forever contract would be making a forever decision based on already outdated information and current circumstances that defy future trends in the energy marketplace.

Signing TVA's long-term contract is not the best option for MLGW ratepayers. It would commit tens of billions of Memphians' dollars to TVA for generations to come and would be a betrayal of Memphians' future. It is also an insult to tie us to TVA given the way they have treated Memphis in recent years, with their behind-closed-doors decision to move toxic coal ash through South Memphis for the next 10 years, along with increased costs passed directly onto Memphis ratepayers due to poor planning by continuing to rely on dirty and volatile fossil fuels, and their overall lack of attention to Memphis, their largest customer, until the last few years when we started to consider finding another electricity provider.

Now is simply not the time for MLGW to sign any long term contract, especially not a forever contract with TVA. Instead, I ask that you remain on the current contract with TVA to keep the door open for new opportunities for transformational benefits for Memphians. Memphis still has the power to realize a more affordable, equitable, and clean energy future, but only if you make the right decision and allow the energy market to stabilize before making any decision about our future power supplier.

Memphis still has the power to achieve a more affordable, equitable, and clean energy future, don't give it away by signing TVA's forever contract.

Please find attached the comments of Protect Our Aquifer, Memphis Community Against Pollution, and Sierra Club regarding the September 1 power supply recommendation. The Southern Environmental Law Center submits these comments on behalf of POA, MCAP, and Sierra Club to urge you to keep the current 5-year contract with TVA and keep our community's options open to get a better, cleaner, and more just deal for all Memphians. The Board's power supply decision provides a once-in-a-generation opportunity for MLGW to reduce economic, health, water consumption, and energy burdens in our communities. But that negotiation has not occurred. And, as TVA CEO Lyash plainly stated to this Board on September 7, it never will occur once MLGW signs a Never-ending Contract. For that reason alone, the Board should not bind our community forever to TVA.

- As detailed in the attached letter, including expert reports by Applied Economics Clinic and Greenlink Analytics, the September 1 analysis presented to the Board by outgoing MLGW CEO and staff consultant GDS was flawed in several vitally important aspects, including:
- Undercounting risk related to TVA's Long-Term Agreement, which shifts the majority of TVA's financial risk onto its locked-in, captive customer base;
  - Creating a bias for gas-heavy portfolios by failing to update gas price forecasts and re-optimize results based on that updated forecast;
  - Creating a bias against renewables by using current-day "snapshot" PPA prices rather than longer-range price forecasts for renewable PPAs;
  - Apparently omitting to incorporate tax credits for renewables from the Inflation Reduction Act;
  - Failing to explain that neither TVA supply option (current or Never-ending Contract) meets MLGW renewables requirements;
  - Failing to disclose that most of TVA's solar power is and will be spoken for by corporations and other municipal customers, so the savings from that energy are not available to everyday ratepayers in Memphis;
  - Failing to evaluate sufficient alternatives that include battery storage;
  - Failing to be based on an all-resources bid and be transparent about the GDS bid aggregation methodology;
  - Failing to adequately address energy burden in predominantly Black communities across Memphis; and
  - Failing to meaningfully consider the impacts on the Memphis Sand Aquifer of TVA's and other power providers' use of fossil fuels.

As a so-called public power utility, TVA should know better than to recklessly invest in new gas plants and force its captive customers to bear the costs. MLGW can help the utility do better. And if TVA won't do better, MLGW should walk away. Only keeping the current contract will keep that option open.  
Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on MLGW's power supply decision.

Question/Comment
<p>I am a MLGW customer and I believe that a never-ending power supply contract with TVA is a bad deal for Memphis. While TVA claims these are "20-year contracts," in reality they automatically extend every year, making it practically impossible for Memphis to explore cheaper or cleaner energy options in the future. Instead of committing to these burdensome, never-ending contracts, MLGW should keep its current five-year contracts with TVA.</p> <p>There are significant risks that come with signing a forever contract with TVA. By signing one of these never-ending agreements, we give up our leverage and lose the ability to negotiate for cheaper, cleaner, and, renewable power options now and in the future.</p> <p>Memphis communities ALREADY face some of the highest energy burdens in the country, meaning a higher percentage of their income is used to pay their utility bills. We cannot afford to sign away MLGW's ability to negotiate for programs that will lower power bills for the tens of thousands of Memphians facing high energy burdens.</p> <p>TVA also has a significant NEGATIVE environmental impact. TVA is planning to spend billions on new methane gas plants and pipelines that will worsen the impacts of climate change.</p> <p>Here in Memphis, TVA recklessly pumps five million gallons of clean water from the Memphis Sand Aquifer every day. If MLGW signs a never-ending contract, we would be unable to fight for a cleaner, healthier Memphis future.</p> <p>There is a better deal for Memphis – now is our chance to take it. Please keep the current, five-year contract, which gives us the ability to push back on bad policies, fight for programs that work for Memphis communities, and leave TVA if things don't get better.</p> <p>Your job is to provide the most environmentally responsible and cost-effective service for the people of the Memphis area served by MLGW... not to guarantee the profits of the TVA's long-range business plan.</p>
<p><u>Thank you for your service on the MLGW Board.</u>  Who Am I and Why Am I Here</p> <p>I have been a Memphian for over 40 years. I have worked in the area of community development for over 20 years, taught at the University of Memphis for 12 years, and I am a founding Board member of the group Protect Our Aquifer. For the last six years, I have worked to protect and preserve the Memphis Sand Aquifer for the generations that will follow me. In this same manner, I urge the Board members to consider the long-term implications of a prohibitive contract with our current power provider—the Tennessee Valley Authority.</p> <p>While it is not quite clear to me which power provider option(s) is best for the long-term future on Memphis and Shelby County, it is quite clear that to remain with TVA is NOT the best option—unless they are willing to negotiate in good faith and with an eye to the future of energy, the primacy of locale, and the ability of all parties to consider larger issues such as climate realities and the efficiency of shared systems.</p> <p>I urge Board members: Do not take the easy way out. Signing up with TVA relegates us to be forever within their fence (a non-cooperative neighbor to adjoining states and their energy supplies), forever relying on their aging, polluting systems, and forever unable to innovate, expand or develop our own local solutions to a market that will change radically in the next 20 years—and beyond.</p> <p>We do not know what energy supplies will look like in the decades to come. But we should certainly keep our options open, our control local, and our ability to adapt diverse and redundant. While it is good on a regular basis to have a reliable daily supplier of energy, nothing should override the virtues and resiliency of local control and local resources.</p> <p>The Future of Power</p> <p>It is clear that the entire world must move to cleaner, more efficient, less destructive, and more abundant sources for our power needs. As a power company, TVA should be a leader in all these areas. Instead, TVA still maintains damaging coal plants, builds new gas plants, and forces states to accept fossil fuel pipelines. Similarly, they want to dictate to us here in Memphis how slow we must roll on our quest to enter a new age of cleaner energy and supporting infrastructure.</p> <p>TVA goals for carbon reduction and conversion to cleaner energy lag behind states, industries, and neighboring power suppliers. And in their contract, they are limiting our local ability to pursue those goals at our own rate. This is negligent corporate behavior as the whole world suffers from current fossil fuel generation even as the future demands a new approach.</p> <p>We know from their current plans that TVA will continue to rely upon fossil fuels for the foreseeable future. This is a pure corporate decision to support existing infrastructure, current budgets and pay down past blunders—like investments in failed nuclear facilities. It is not enough that TVA has spent over 60 years spewing coal ash particles into south Memphis neighborhoods and now spews carbon and noxious emissions from burning gas into the atmosphere.</p> <p>Given the predictions of climate realities and carbonized chaos, TVA manages to limit local autonomy, authority, and initiative to augment these fuel sources with clean, cost-competitive solutions like solar and wind. It seems like a draconian clause in a restrictive contract that does not allow a locality to discover and enact climate friendly and innovative solutions to problems much larger than the bottom line of our corporate utility conglomerate. Prohibiting our own local solutions and forbidding our local participation in solving an impending climate crisis is an onerous detail in this forever contract.</p>

Question/Comment
<p>Please find attached the comments of Protect Our Aquifer, Memphis Community Against Pollution, and Sierra Club regarding the September 1 power supply recommendation. POA, MCAP, and Sierra Club urge you to keep the current 5-year contract with TVA and keep our community's options open to get a better, cleaner, and more just deal for all Memphians. The Board's power supply decision provides a once-in-a-generation opportunity for MLGW to reduce economic, health, water consumption, and energy burdens in our communities. But that negotiation has not occurred. And, as TVA CEO Lyash plainly stated to this Board on September 7, it never will occur once MLGW signs a Never-ending Contract. For that reason alone, the Board should not bind our community forever to TVA.</p> <p>As detailed in the attached letter, including expert reports by Applied Economics Clinic and Greenlink Analytics, the September 1 analysis presented to the Board by outgoing MLGW CEO and staff consultant GDS was flawed in several vitally important aspects, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Undercounting risk related to TVA's Long-Term Agreement, which shifts the majority of TVA's financial risk onto its locked-in, captive customer base;</li> <li>•Creating a bias for gas-heavy portfolios by failing to update gas price forecasts and re-optimize results based on that updated forecast;</li> <li>•Creating a bias against renewables by using current-day "snapshot" PPA prices rather than longer-range price forecasts for renewable PPAs;</li> <li>•Apparently omitting to incorporate tax credits for renewables from the Inflation Reduction Act;</li> <li>•Failing to explain that neither TVA supply option (current or Never-ending Contract) meets MLGW renewables requirements;</li> <li>•Failing to disclose that most of TVA's solar power is and will be spoken for by corporations and other municipal customers, so the savings from that energy are not available to everyday ratepayers in Memphis;</li> <li>•Failing to evaluate sufficient alternatives that include battery storage;</li> <li>•Failing to be based on an all-resources bid and be transparent about the GDS bid aggregation methodology;</li> <li>•Failing to adequately address energy burden in predominantly Black communities across Memphis; and</li> <li>•Failing to meaningfully consider the impacts on the Memphis Sand Aquifer of TVA's and other power providers' use of fossil fuels.</li> </ul> <p>As a so-called public power utility, TVA should know better than to recklessly invest in new gas plants and force its captive customers to bear the costs. MLGW can help the utility do better. And if TVA won't do better, MLGW should walk away. Only keeping the current contract will keep that option open.</p> <p>Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on MLGW's power supply decision</p>
<p>I am a MLGW customer and have tried to keep up with the important decision around our electric provider. Please extend the proposed 30-day public comment period to 60 days and take an additional 30 days for your own review period of our comments. We are already almost halfway through the 30-day public comment period proposed on Sept. 1, 2022 and there are over 5,000 pages and dense information to pour over. I ask that you NOT vote on a resolution to recommend a power supplier before November 30, 2022 to ensure all the voices of your ratepayers are considered. This has been the ONLY opportunity to weigh public input on the RFP and power supply recommendation throughout this 3+ year process. I would appreciate response within 5 days. Thank you for your service on the MLGW Board.</p>
<p>At the last MLGW board meeting (7 September 2022) you asked Mr. Lyash, CEO of TVA, if there was any room to negotiate the terms of the proposed TVA contract- which because of its auto-extension hook, is a never-ending, forever contract. Mr. Lyash's response was: "We (TVA) are Public Power". He also conveyed that TVA is a non-profit and must treat each customer equally, regardless of size. It was as if TVA was being likened to MATA, or the Fire Department or even a farmers co-op. TVA does not act like "Public Power". Why would a "Public Power" company not be willing to share its transmission lines? Why would a "Public Power" company choose to ignore Protect Our Aquifer's continued requests to stop wasting 5 million gallons of our drinking water (per day) to cool their Allen plant?</p> <p>How is it that this "Public Power" company operates as a legally protected monopoly, sets its own rates without regulatory review, and does not pay the federal, state, and local taxes that private utilities pay? How can TVA really deliver the lowest rates while servicing over \$20 billion in outstanding debt, while contributing to a significantly underfunded \$13 billion pension plan, and paying its CEO \$10 million per year? Does that sound like "Public Power" to you?</p> <p>Reform will eventually come to TVA. And when it does there will be options for customers like MLGW and Memphis. We can demand that TVA respect our natural resources and stop wasting our drinking water to cool their Allen plant. And we can receive the meaningful investment we need to help Memphis lower its energy burden- which is now ranked 4th among cities in America.</p> <p>Signing a never-ending contract now will only ensure that the status quo continues at TVA and for the citizens of Memphis for generations. I encourage you to keep your existing contract in place.</p>