

SENATE RESOLUTION 29

By Kelsey

A RESOLUTION relative to groundwater contamination at TVA's Allen Fossil Plant in Memphis.

WHEREAS, according to a recent report by the Environmental Integrity Project, the Tennessee Valley Authority's (TVA's) recently retired Allen Fossil Plant in Memphis is one of the ten most polluted coal ash landfill sites in the nation, and levels of arsenic found in the nearby groundwater are 350 times higher than what is considered safe; and

WHEREAS, even more disturbing is the TVA's recent admission that the thin protective clay barrier between this shallow aquifer and the Memphis Sand aquifer, the source of the city's drinking water, has been breached; and

WHEREAS, TVA insists that the plume of contaminated groundwater from the shallow aquifer is not moving toward the Memphis Sand aquifer despite the breach and the hydraulic connectivity between the two, and so far there is no evidence that the city's drinking water contains these high concentrations of arsenic; and

WHEREAS, TVA's assertions amid widespread concern by the public and scientists alike are of cold comfort when there is very real potential that the contaminated groundwater could be pulled down into the Memphis Sand aquifer and thus endanger human health and aquatic life via pollution; and

WHEREAS, TVA has recommended an interim corrective action to address the environmental impacts at the Allen Fossil Plant site; however, it is essential that the coal ash containment ponds there be closed and the coal ash removed as quickly as possible in the interest of public health; and

WHEREAS, the 2008 coal ash spill at TVA's Kingston Fossil Plant was not only the nation's worst such disaster, but the resulting remediation involved the largest exposure of

workers to coal ash in U.S. history; recently, a U.S. District Court jury found that coal ash poisoning was responsible for the deaths of at least thirty workers participating in the clean-up and the illness or terminal condition of 250 more; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that in the interest of protecting and preserving the drinking water supply of West Tennessee and its citizens' health and welfare, we strongly urge the Tennessee Valley Authority to expeditiously remove the toxic coal ash from the containment ponds at the retired Allen Fossil Plant and reinter the coal ash in an appropriately engineered landfill.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we call upon the members of the TVA board of directors from Memphis, John Ryder and Ronald Walter, to communicate the contents of this resolution to the TVA board of directors at its next meeting.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a certified copy of this resolution be prepared and transmitted to the president and chief executive officer and each member of the board of directors of the Tennessee Valley Authority.