

Media Q&A, 2/17/2000

Regional Resource Stewardship Council  
February 2000

- Q.** When did TVA appoint members of the new council?
- A.** The TVA Board announced the appointment of council members on February 11, 2000, after each of the seven governors, TVPPA, and TVIC had made their nominations. Over 140 nominations were submitted for TVA's 8 stakeholder slots.
- Q.** Why is this committee operating under FACA?
- A.** Federal agencies are required to follow the Federal Advisory Committee Act guidelines when groups of stakeholders provide group-consensus advice to federal agencies. This is mandatory if a group is established to provide advice or make recommendations to an agency of the federal government.
- Q.** How does FACA work?
- A.** The Federal Advisory Committee Act requires adoption of a charter that sets up the guidelines of how the council should operate. This includes membership, how meetings are called and recorded and that they must be open to the public. The Act also says that the Council will act in an advisory role with the actual decisions regarding all matters under the Council's consideration to be made by the managing agency.
- Q.** What is GSA's involvement in this?
- A.** The Federal Advisory Committee Act delegates to the Government Services Administration and to its Committee Management Secretariat the responsibility for implementing the Act. To carry out this responsibility, GSA oversees the formation and operation of federal advisory committees, with the concurrence of the Office of Management and Budget.

- Q. What's the purpose of this council?
- A. TVA has established this Council to seek advice from public and private sectors to help TVA form strategies and policies and set priorities on the best practices for managing the natural resources of the Tennessee Valley.
- Q. How long do you expect the council to be advising TVA?
- A. The council is established for a two-year period, the maximum term allowed by FACA. After two years the Council can be reconvened.
- Q. Were there any criteria given to the Governors to make their nominations?
- A. There were no appointment criteria given to the Governors or any other group that nominated members.
- Q. Why do the governors of VA and NC get the same number of representatives as the Governor of TN, when TVA serves only a fraction of VA and NC?
- A. TVA's mission is to maintain a regional, integrated river management system that is dependent on the unified, watershed-wide management of the Tennessee River basin, irrespective of state boundaries or the water acreage in each state. The focus of the council work will be to set priorities for TVA's traditional resource management programs in order to optimize water resources for regional and national benefits.
- Q. Are recommendations from the Council any more likely to be accepted by the TVA Board than any other recommendation? Or, is TVA required to follow the recommendations of the Council?
- A. TVA formed this Council to ensure we are managing the Tennessee River system with all public interests in mind. Although TVA is not required to follow the Council's recommendations, they will play a strong role in any policy decisions or strategies TVA reviews for management of its resources.
- Q. How can the public have input into the policies and/or strategies the council might review?
- A. Council members will be responsible for incorporating public opinion and feedback on Council topics into their deliberations. Members can communicate with Council members one-on-one in between meetings or to the entire membership at Council meetings.

**Q.** How often will meetings be held and can the public attend?

**A.** Meetings will be held as often as the Council thinks a meeting is needed to conduct business and address issues. The Council will also have issue committees that will do work in between Council meetings.

**Q.** Is the council paid for their work?

**A.** No. Members are reimbursed for travel and lodging expenses associated with Council and Committee meetings.