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General Comment

I would like to express my support for allowing the TVA to continue working on potentially siting one or more small modular reactor (SMR) at the Clinch River Nuclear Site. This type of work is crucial to regaining and maintaining the US' lead in nuclear energy technology worldwide, and not nearly enough of it is being done. With many new SMR designs being developed, sites at which they can be piloted and prototyped will need to be ready in the next few years, to prevent loss of momentum once they are ready for that. Nuclear energy is absolutely key to our work to transform our energy systems away from those that emit pollutants and CO₂, and SMRs are a completely new and valuable sector of that area. SMRs have more potential applications than virtually any other form of clean energy, including not just electricity generation, but co-generation district heating, process heat (for steel, concrete, ammonia and synthetic liquid fuels, for example), water desalination and more. They are potentially the most flexible of our energy sources, and we need to support their development and deployment as much as possible.

I know that there will be many comments urging you to deny this application, but I believe those are largely made by those that have a specific anti-nuclear agenda, which is not based on sound science, and disregards the incredibly good safety record that nuclear energy has. I would ask you to set those comments aside to the extent that they can be.

To summarize, approving this application will help move us along the long and difficult road of cleaning up our energy mix, and I urge you to approve it in a timely fashion, with appropriate caveats and adjustments as might be necessary. Much depends on nuclear energy, and our success with new, advanced nuclear reactors depends on our continued support of research, design, development, prototyping, piloting and ultimately deployment of a variety of nuclear technologies. Approving this application is an important step in that direction.

Thank you.