

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

February 7, 2019

William D. Johnson
President and Chief Executive Officer
Tennessee Valley Authority
400 West Summit Hill Drive
Knoxville, TN 37902

Dear President Johnson,

We were alarmed by the Tennessee Valley Authority's (TVA) recent announcement that ratepayers may have to pay for Jacobs Engineering's (Jacobs) misdeeds during its disaster cleanup at TVA's Kingston plant, despite Jacob's own admission that it lied to workers about the level of risk to which they were ultimately exposed.¹ According to the *Knoxville News Sentinel*, TVA struck a deal with Jacobs to pay legal bills for lawsuits they defend relating to the cleanup.²

If true, this is deeply disturbing.

TVA's congressionally mandated mission is to improve the quality of life in the Valley through the integrated management of the region's resources.² Regrettably, it seems that TVA's irresponsible actions have achieved the opposite effect – more than 40 workers have died, including at least two TVA employees, and more than 400 are sick.³

We are requesting answers to the following questions:

- 1) Given the allegations of Jacobs Engineering's history of worker safety lawsuits and test tampering, why did TVA hire this company to clean up the site?
- 2) If TVA was aware of this history, what commitments did Jacobs Engineering provide to ensure that the company would be able to keep workers and the community safe?
- 3) After it was uncovered that Jacobs Engineering supervisors admitted under oath that they lied to the estimated 900 workers employed at the height of the cleanup effort about the dangers of coal ash, why does TVA still have a \$200 million business relationship with Jacobs that involves worker safety?

¹ <https://www.knoxnews.com/story/news/crime/2019/02/05/coal-ash-spill-sick-workers-tva-liability-jacobs-engineering/2733792002/>

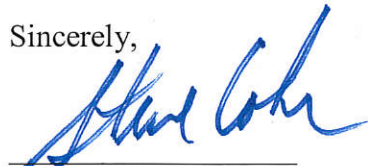
² https://www.tva.gov/file_source/TVA/Site%20Content/About%20TVA/2017_TVA_at_a_Glance_FINAL.pdf

³ <https://www.knoxnews.com/story/news/crime/2019/02/05/coal-ash-spill-sick-workers-tva-liability-jacobs-engineering/2733792002/>

- 4) It is alleged that TVA officials offered contractor bonuses to Jacobs Engineering to not file any reports of workers being harmed. Is there any truth to this allegation? Please explain.
- 5) On what basis did TVA representatives ascertain that the makeup of coal ash only had a handful of harmful substances, despite test results from independent testing by Duke University that showed the Kingston coal ash had radiation and two dozen toxic chemicals and metals in it?
- 6) If TVA supervisors had knowledge of worker complaints of common symptoms of coal ash exposure, including skin rashes, breathing ailments and migraines dating back to 2013, why were they not documented or acted upon?
- 7) What is the environmental impact of the recently closed coal ash storage areas at the former Allen Fossil Plant on the Memphis Sans aquifer?

Thank you for your assistance. Should you have any questions regarding these requests, please contact Alex Schnelle in Congressman Cohen's office at alex.schnelle@mail.house.gov or 202-225-3265 or Zach Dooley in Congressman Burchett's office at zach.dooley@mail.house.gov or 202-225-5435.

Sincerely,



Steve Cohen
Member of Congress



Tim Burchett
Member of Congress