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February 3, 2017

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

Dear President Johnson,

Thank you for your time during your most recent travel to Washington, D.C. I was pleased to have the opportunity to meet with you in my office, and with your willingness to speak with my constituent, Ward Archer, who is among the many Memphians concerned about the future viability of the Memphis Sand Aquifer. The aquifer provides Memphians with fresh, famously palatable drinking water, and is precious to both individuals and to future of our city's economic development. The risk of potential water contamination in the Memphis Sand Aquifer as a result of increased well-drilling and water-pumping is of particular importance to me and many of my constituents, and I appreciate the time and attention that you continue to devote to addressing it.

Through previous correspondence, the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) has noted that the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) was commissioned to study TVA's proposed use of groundwater at the Allen Combined-Cycle Plant. In a September 13, 2016 letter to my office, TVA stated that the USGS study, "concluded that groundwater withdrawals to cool the plant would have limited or no effect on other groundwater users in the area." The USGS study does state that its simulations predict a minimal reduction in water levels of the overlying shallow aquifer, but goes on to state that, "the potential effect of the withdrawals on water levels in the shallow aquifer as well as the potential for water-quality changes due to the leakage of water from the shallow aquifer near the Allen plant site cannot be fully evaluated with the available data and the scope of the current investigation."

In our meeting, you expressed your reluctance to commission an additional study to review specifically the potential for water-quality changes as a result of TVA's proposed use of groundwater at the Allen Combined-Cycle Plant, indicating that as a former trial lawyer you were uncomfortable with commissioning such a study amid local scrutiny. I am also a former trial lawyer, and although I am no longer practicing I confess that I do not understand the hesitancy to commission an additional USGS study amid such serious concerns from my constituency. Any further scientific study would serve only to possibly protect public health and the potential for future economic development in my district, and would inevitably lead to TVA making a more informed decision on its use of groundwater in Memphis. Moreover, if the results of such a study end up being as reassuring as TVA believes they will be, it would only bolster TVA's position.

You agreed that the USGS could likely conduct a study to review the potential for contamination of groundwater in the Memphis Sand Aquifer, but indicated that TVA would be interested in requesting such a study only on the contingency that public scrutiny lessens. As the President of TVA, you know that studies such as these take significant amounts of time, and that even the process to request such a study can take a significant amount of time. Waiting to merely request the study until public scrutiny decreases or until litigation against the Shelby County Groundwater Control Board has been withdrawn unnecessarily delays information that could be pertinent to the safety and welfare of TVA's largest customer, the City of Memphis and its surrounding counties.

I therefore urge you once again to request as soon as possible a USGS study to investigate the potential for TVA's proposed groundwater withdrawals to alter the water quality in the Memphis Sand Aquifer. Furthermore, I encourage you to work with the University of Memphis to reinvestigate the feasibility of utilizing grey water from the Maxson Treatment Plant to cool the new natural gas generators at the Allen Combined-Cycle Plant.

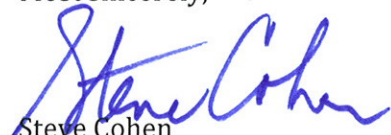
It is my hope that TVA will ultimately decide to pursue more knowledge on this issue before it decides to pursue fresh water from the Memphis Sand Aquifer, and that it will commission an additional study from the USGS to investigate potential effects on the Memphis Sand Aquifer's water quality a result of its use of groundwater to cool the generators at the Allen Combined-Cycle Plant.

I am grateful for your attention to these concerns, and look forward to your reply.

Should you have any questions regarding this correspondence, please do not hesitate to contact Patrick Cassidy in my Washington, D.C. office at (202) 225-3265.

As Always, I remain,

Most sincerely,



Steve Cohen
Member of Congress