

November 24, 2010

Mr. Gordon Arent
General Manager, New Generation Licensing
Nuclear Generation Development and Construction
Tennessee Valley Authority
1101 Market Street
Chattanooga, Tennessee 37402-2801

SUBJECT: TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY REQUEST FOR DEFERRING REVIEW OF
BELLEFONTE UNITS 3 AND 4 COMBINED LICENSE APPLICATION REVIEW

Dear Mr. Arent:

By letter dated September 29, 2010, Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) requested that the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) defer its review efforts of the Bellefonte Units 3 and 4 combined license (COL) application, except for the hydrology flood related review, and complete its review of the remaining open items (OIs). In addition, TVA requested that NRC provide a plan and schedule for completing the hydrology review.

Based on your letter, it now appears likely that a decision to pursue Unit 1 by the TVA Board may occur sometime after the spring of 2011. Also you stated that a revised COL application for Units 3 and 4 would be expected to take an additional 24 months to prepare once a decision related to Unit 1 is made. Thus, as you requested, NRC has agreed to defer the review of the Bellefonte Units 3 and 4 COL application review indefinitely. Additionally, we will revise the public milestone schedule to note that this review, is in a suspended status.

You also requested that NRC staff continue the hydrology review rather than defer this subject area. NRC has agreed to continue the review of the hydrology flood related topic of the Bellefonte Units 3 and 4 COL application subject to receipt of appropriate and adequate responses to the requests for additional information. We currently understand that some critical hydrology studies will not be completed for another 15 months. Once all the requested information has been received, the staff will prepare a plan and establish the schedule for completion of the hydrology review.

Regarding the updating of the status ("open" or "closed") of current requests for information of existing OIs, such updating would require the NRC staff to review and evaluate the responses received from TVA and complete its safety determination. The NRC does not believe that this is an effective use of its limited resources for an application in a deferred status. Therefore the NRC staff will update the status of current requests for information or existing OIs for Bellefonte Units 3 and 4 once it receives the revised application and begins the review of the revised application.

G. Arent

- 2 -

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me or Manny Comar, the lead Project manager for Bellefonte Units 3 and 4.

Sincerely,

/RA Frank Akstulewicz for/

David B. Matthews, Director
Division of New Reactor Licensing
Office of New Reactors

G. Arent

- 2 -

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me or Manny Comar, the lead Project manager for Bellefonte Units 3 and 4.

Sincerely,

/RA Frank Akstulewicz for/

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Docket No. 52-014
52-015

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(Revised 06/23/2010)

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