July 27, 2009

G. Paul Bollwerk, III, Chair    Dr. Anthony J. Baratta
Administrative Judge     Administrative Judge
Atomic Safety and Licensing Board  Atomic Safety and Licensing Board
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C.  20555-0001  Washington, D.C. 20555-0001

Dr. William W. Sager
Administrative Judge
Atomic Safety and Licensing Board
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C.  20555-0001

In the Matter of
TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY
(Bellefonte Nuclear Power Plant, Units 3 and 4)
Docket Nos. 52-014 and 52-015

Dear Administrative Judges:

As requested in the Licensing Board’s June 25, 2009, Memorandum and Order, the NRC staff (Staff) is hereby providing the Licensing Board and parties with new information regarding the Staff’s schedule for completion of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (“DEIS”). As noted in the enclosed letter from Gregory P. Hatchett to Ashok S. Bhatnagar,¹ the Staff has determined that it will not issue the DEIS until after the Tennessee Valley Authority’s Board of Directors decides whether it intends to complete Bellefonte Nuclear Plant, Units 1 and 2. This decision is currently scheduled for the first half of fiscal year 2011.

¹ Letter from Gregory P. Hatchett, Branch Chief, Environmental Projects Branch 1, Division of Site and Environmental Reviews, Office of New Reactors, to Ashok S. Bhatnagar, Senior Vice President, Nuclear Generation Development and Construction, Tennessee Valley Authority, “Change in Schedule of Bellefonte Nuclear Plant, Units 3 and 4 Combined License Application Draft Environmental Impact Statement,” July 21, 2009 (ML091870303).
As further requested in the June 25, 2009, Memorandum and Order, the Staff will provide a further schedule update to the Licensing Board and parties on September 1, 2009.

Respectfully submitted,

/signed (electronically) by/
Jody C. Martin
Counsel for NRC Staff
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Mail Stop O-15 D21
Washington, DC 20555-0001
(301) 415-1569
Jody.Martin@nrc.gov

Enclosure: As stated
cc w/encls:
See attached certificate of service
July 21, 2009

Mr. Ashok S. Bhatnagar, Senior Vice President
Nuclear Generation Development and Construction
Tennessee Valley Authority
1101 Market Street
Chattanooga, Tennessee  37402-2801

SUBJECT: CHANGE IN SCHEDULE OF BELLEFONTE NUCLEAR PLANT, UNITS 3 AND 4
COMBINED LICENSE APPLICATION DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Dear Mr. Bhatnagar:

By letter dated May 1, 2009, the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) informed the Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff that it is currently evaluating the viability of completing Bellefonte Nuclear Plant (Bellefonte), Units 1 and 2. The letter also stated that TVA anticipates that sufficient information will be gathered by the first half of fiscal year 2011 to allow the TVA Board of Directors (TVA Board) to determine whether these units should be completed. Therefore, the staff has determined that it will not issue the draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) for the Bellefonte, Units 3 and 4 combined license (COL) application until after TVA’s Board decision on whether to proceed with completion of Bellefonte, Units 1 and 2.

Accordingly, the staff intends on completing the draft EIS, short of publication, based on the current scope of the environmental impacts submitted within TVA’s COL application. Should TVA’s Board decision alter the current scope of the agency’s NEPA review for Bellefonte Units 3 and 4, we would need to evaluate the impacts to the schedule and resources needed to complete the environmental review for the proposed reactors.

Should you have any questions regarding the environmental review, please contact Mallecia Hood, the Environmental Project Manager for the Bellefonte COL application at (301) 415-0673 or by e-mail at mallecia.hood@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Gregory P. Hatchett, Branch Chief
Environmental Projects Branch 1
Division of Site and Environmental Reviews
Office of New Reactors

Docket Nos. 52-014, 52-015

cc: See next page
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

BEFORE THE ATOMIC SAFETY AND LICENSING BOARD

In the Matter of
TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY
Bellefonte Nuclear Power Plant (Units 3 and 4)

Docket Nos. 52-014 and 52-015

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that copies of NRC Staff letter dated July 27, 2009, have been served upon the following persons by Electronic Information Exchange this 27th day of July, 2009:

Administrative Judge
G. Paul Bollwerk, III, Chair
Atomic Safety and Licensing Board Panel
Mail Stop – T-3 F23
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555-0001
(E-mail: gpb@nrc.gov)

Administrative Judge
Dr. Anthony J. Baratta
Atomic Safety and Licensing Board Panel
Mail Stop – T-3 F23
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555-0001
(E-mail: ajb5@nrc.gov)

Administrative Judge
Dr. William W. Sager
Atomic Safety and Licensing Board Panel
Mail Stop – T-3 F23
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555-0001
(E-mail: wws1@nrc.gov)

Office of the Secretary
ATTN: Docketing and Service
Mail Stop 0-16C1
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20550-0001
(E-mail: HEARINGDOCKET@nrc.gov)

Office of Commission Appellate Adjudication
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555-0001
(E-mail: ocaamail@nrc.gov)

Erica LaPlante
Law Clerk
Mail Stop – T-3 F23
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555-0001
(E-mail: eal1@nrc.gov)
Sara Barczak
Southern Alliance for Clean Energy
428 Bull Street
Savannah, GA 31401
(E-mail: sara@cleanenergy.org)

Steven P. Frantz, Esq.
Stephen J. Burdick, Esq.
Jonathan M. Rund, Esq.
Alan H. Gutterman, Esq.
Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP
1111 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20004
(E-mail: sfrantz@morganlewis.com
sburdick@morganlewis.com
jrund@morganlewis.com
agutterman@morganlewis.com)

Edward J. Vigluicci, Esq.
Tennessee Valley Authority
400 W. Summit Hill Dr., WT 6A-K
Knoxville, TN 37902
(E-mail: ejvigluicci@tva.gov)

Louise Gorenflo
Bellefonte Efficiency & Sustainability Team
185 Hood Drive
Crossville, TN 38555
(E-mail: lgorenflo@gmail.com)

Louis A. Zeller
Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League
P.O. Box 88
Glendale Springs, NC 28629
(E-mail: BREDL@skybest.com)

Jody C. Martin
Counsel for NRC Staff
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Mail Stop O-15 D21
Washington, DC 20555-0001
(301) 415-1569
Jody.Martin@nrc.gov

/signed (electronically) by/
Jody C. Martin
Counsel for NRC Staff
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Mail Stop O-15 D21
Washington, DC 20555-0001
(301) 415-1569
Jody.Martin@nrc.gov