



Tennessee Valley Authority, 1101 Market Street, Chattanooga, Tennessee 37402-2801

July 14, 2000

Mr. Samuel J. Collins, Director
Nuclear Reactor Regulation
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555-0001

Dear Mr. Collins:

| | | | |
|----------------------------|---|-------------|--------|
| In the Matter of |) | Docket Nos. | 50-391 |
| Tennessee Valley Authority |) | | 50-438 |
| | | | 50-439 |

**BELLEFONTE NUCLEAR PLANT (BLN) UNITS 1 & 2 AND WATTS BAR
NUCLEAR PLANT (WBN) UNIT 2 - CONFIRMATION OF CONSTRUCTION
DEFERRAL STATUS**

The purpose of this letter is to confirm, in writing, the results of recent discussions with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff regarding the status of BLN Units 1 and 2 and WBN Unit 2. In their current status, these units meet NRC's definition for deferred nuclear plant units as described in Generic Letter (GL)87-15, "Policy Statement on Deferred Plants." Consideration of these units in a deferred status does not constitute a reduction in commitment in accordance with 10 CFR 50.55(f)(3)(i).

The current quality assurance requirements applicable to the subject units, particularly the maintenance, preservation, and documentation requirements, will continue in accordance with the Nuclear Quality Assurance Plan (TVA-NQA-PLN89-A) (NQA Plan). Future changes to the NQA Plan may be submitted commensurate with the site activities and expected length of delay, in accordance with 10 CFR 50.55(f)(3).

TVA has established maintenance and lay-up programs that are described and controlled in accordance with approved plant procedures. No changes have been made to these programs as a result of considering these units in accordance with GL 87-15. These programs have been inspected periodically since their inception. NRC conducted the last inspection of BLN Unit 1 and 2 in May 2000 (50-438,439/00-01) and WBN Unit 2 in July 1999 (50-391/00-04), and no findings or violations were identified.

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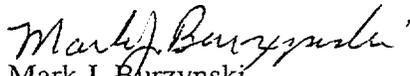
July 14, 2000

Consistent with GL 87-15, paragraph III.A.2, and 10 CFR 2.109, "Effect of Timely Renewal Application," TVA is maintaining both plants' construction permits. The BLN Unit 1 Construction Permit (CPPR)-122 has been extended until October 1, 2001, and BLN Unit 2 CPPR-123 has been extended until October 1, 2004. By letter dated October 13, 1999, TVA submitted a request to extend WBN Unit 2 CPPR-92, which is presently being reviewed by NRC. At this time, no projected date for the resumption of construction activities for these units is available.

TVA's integrated resource plan - Energy Vision 2020 - identified the need for a flexible range of options and alternatives required to meet, among other things, the Tennessee Valley region's base-load power supply needs through the year 2020. Until the decision on generating options to meet future load forecasts are finalized, maintaining BLN Units 1 & 2 and WBN Unit 2 in a deferred status is consistent with TVA's need to maintain a flexible range of generating options. In the event TVA plans to reactivate construction at any of these units, NRC will be notified by letter as specified in GL 87-15.

If you have questions regarding this response, please call R. M. Brown at (423) 751-7228.

Sincerely,



Mark J. Burzynski
Manager
Nuclear Licensing

cc: See page 3

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