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SOUTHEAST TENNESSEE DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT



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USNRC

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555-0001

Ladies and Gentlemen:

On behalf of the Tri-State Regional Workforce Alliance, an 80-member collaborative that includes representatives from business, industry, education, economic and workforce development, we urge your approval of the applications for licensing of the Bellefonte Nuclear Plant Units 3 and 4. It is the mission of the Alliance to work collaboratively to grow the wealth of our labor market through focusing on the expansion of high-skill, high-wage jobs; this project is in the best interest of the region.

It is clear that nuclear power is a proven acceptable solution to greenhouse gas emissions that have been directly linked to global warming. The technology provides a safe, reliable way to generate the level of power that will be needed for our region to continue to expand and grow. Already the South is growing faster than the rest of the nation and our consumption of electricity demands that we look for production sources that are clean, safe and efficient.

I am a resident of the state of Tennessee and live just miles from the Watts Bar Unit 2 Reactor that is presently coming on line. I have witnessed firsthand the multiplying affect that this industry can have on local economies. In addition to the 1,500 contract workers that will be needed to construct the Watts Bar reactor, more than 600 positions will be filled by permanent workers who will be needed to maintain and operate it. Already Chattanooga's Alstom Power has announced its intention to expand the manufacture of turbines and generators that will be used in the power industry; this expansion will add 350 fulltime workers to the Alstom workforce. In addition, Chattanooga's Westinghouse Nuclear has announced 75 high-value jobs to support the forthcoming power expansion.

The debate over nuclear power is a sensitive issue but it is one that just makes good sense for our region both environmentally and economically. The Tri-State Regional Workforce Alliance appeals to the NRC to look with favor on the application to proceed with getting the proposed Bellefonte project on line.

Yours truly,

Wanza Lee, Active Member
Tri-State Regional Workforce Alliance

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