



P.O. Box 550  
404 E. Willow Street  
Scottsboro, Alabama 35768  
(256) 574-2680 Fax: (256) 574-5085  
Web address: www.scottsboropower.com

MEMORANDUM

2/21/08  
73 FR 9604  
23

DATE: April 3, 2008  
TO: U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
FROM: Jimmy B. Sandlin, General Manager *JS*  
RE: TVA's Application to build two (2) new AP1000 ~~ASWR~~ Reactors at Bellefonte in Scottsboro, Alabama

RECEIVED

2008 APR 16 PM 1:36

RULES AND DIRECTIVES  
BRANCH  
USNRC

Good Evening. I am Jimmy Sandlin General Manager of the Scottsboro Electric Power Board (Scottsboro EPB). I have a degree in Electrical Engineering from the University of Alabama and I am licensed as a Professional Engineer in the State of Alabama. The Scottsboro EPB is one of 108 municipal systems that distribute TVA power. There are also 50 electric cooperative power distributors in the Tennessee Valley. We have approximately 8,300 electric customers, 250 miles of distribution line, and a 75 megawatt (MW) system demand. We are also only 1 of 5 TVA distributors that own at least 10 MW of generation, 1 of 3 municipal cable systems in Alabama, and only 1 of 2 TVA utilities that have local authority to set its own rates.

Over the past 15 years, the price of wholesale power we purchase from TVA has increased 50% from 4.0 cents/kwh to 6.0 cents/kwh. These increases are certainly not atypical, as most electric utilities have seen significant increases in their wholesale power. Since the passage of the 1992 Energy Policy Act, the deregulation of energy was supposed to have fostered competition and brought more choice and lower prices for consumers. In fact, the 1992 Energy Policy Act will go down in history as a colossal failure for the American consumer. In addition to these additional price increases for electricity, natural gas has quadrupled in price, and refined petroleum products have increased dramatically.

Now, I know we are not here to debate energy policy. But, I do think it is important to reference past failures of energy policy and look to the future to make sound economical, environmental, and efficient decisions as we go about the business of providing energy for the North Alabama region of the Tennessee Valley. TVA's proposal to construct two new advanced boiling water reactors at the Bellefonte site is a good proposal and deserves careful and prudent consideration by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

*SUNSI Review Complete  
Template = ADM-013*

*F-REDS = ADM-03  
Call = Mr. Hurd (MAH2)*

From a power supply point of view, TVA does not currently have enough capacity to meet all of its current needs. To meet the entire system demand, TVA has to rely on off-system purchases that have now grown to about \$1.5B per year. In 2007, these off-system purchases accounted to about 12% of TVA's needs and at times equal about 20% of TVA's peak load. TVA needs more low-cost base-load power supply and construction of new units at Bellefonte will help tremendously. Even with energy efficiency and demand management, TVA will experience load growth greater than 1.5% per year. 600 new electric customers are added each month by power systems in North Alabama. Energy use in North Alabama alone grew by 6% in 2006 and has averaged more than 2% per year over the last ten years. With the military complex at the Redstone Arsenal increasing in size due the Base Realignment and Closure Act (BRAC), Huntsville and all of North Alabama will continue to grow at a rate faster than the rest of the South.

Nuclear power is the best option for our nation to address global warming, energy independence, and the cost of energy for the ultimate consumer. Nuclear power is non-polluting, allows us to create and use energy right here in the United States, and can be generated for less than 1.5 cents/kilowatthour.

However, I do want to encourage the NRC and all operators of nuclear power plants to work collectively in solving the nuclear waste problem. Reprocessing of spent nuclear fuel should be pursued on a national basis or in a federal program so that the unused portion of this fuel could be re-used without having to be stored permanently.

I support the Bellefonte project and encourage the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to proceed thoroughly and quickly in processing TVA's application on this project.

I appreciate the opportunity to provide these comments. Thank you.