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To: Nuclear Regulatory Commission

From: Shelia Shepard, Vice President

Date: April 3, 2008

Subject: Public Hearing

My name is Shelia Shepard and I live here in Jackson County and have lived here all of my adult life.

I am here today representing the Jackson County EDA & IDB Board of directors. These boards have unanimously passed resolutions encouraging the construction of a new nuclear power plant at the Bellefonte site.

We are here today to encourage the NRC to grant TVA a COL to build two new Westinghouse AP 1000 reactors on this TVA site. We are in favor of this for several reasons.

1. It will be the largest economic development project ever in Jackson County and would mean quality jobs for many of our people who work in the construction business and also in the plant once it is constructed. We know that there will be approximately 2500 construction jobs and 800 permanent jobs. We also know that these jobs will be high paying jobs and highly skilled jobs. There are currently approximately 7000 people who leave Jackson County every day commute to work in the surrounding area. They will be glad to save time and money by working in their home county. I know first hand how this can enhance the quality of life for these families. My husband is an assistant unit operator at Brown's Ferry Nuclear and we have seen first hand how our life has improved as a result of him taking this job. Unfortunately he, like many of our nuclear operators, has to drive to Brown's Ferry, Watts Bar, or Sequoya to work in their chosen field. We would love to have him working closer to home.

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2. We have a corps of workers across North Alabama and Tennessee who are experienced and skilled workers for both the construction trades and the actual operation of a power plant. In fact, Jackson County is within 125 miles of three TVA operating nuclear power plants. We feel like the Tennessee Valley Corridor between Oak Ridge, TN and Huntsville, AL is a high tech corridor and having a new nuclear power plant will enhance this.
3. North Alabama is the fastest growing area of this state. The land area is 16% of Alabama and this area accounted for 35% of the new jobs in the last several years. We need the base load power generated by two new reactors to sustain this growth. Low cost reliable electricity is a very large factor in this economic growth.
4. One of our primary missions in Economic Development is to assist local industries. Jackson County and North Alabama still has a strong industrial base. Approximately 16% of our workforce is involved with manufacturing as apposed to 8-9% nationwide. We must continue to provide a competitive and reliable source of electricity to retain these existing industries and remain competitive. Our power distributors will tell you that we need the additional base load power right now.
5. As important at the economic benefits of the Bellefonte project are to the area, I would not be able to support it if I did not believe it would be safe. I am aware of the extensive training my husband went through at Brown's Ferry and the safety standards he works with. I have every confidence in TVA and the NRC that the Bellefonte plant will be a quality and safe operation.

I would like to submit a copy of my remarks, a resolution of support from the Scottsboro Kiwanis Club, and letter of support from a local businessmen and a radiologist.

Thank you for allowing me to speak to you today.