

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

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 Nuclear Generation Development and Construction
 Tennessee Valley Authority
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Bellefonte COL Mailing List

Revised 09/03/08

Finn Bille
1109 Hanover Street
Chattanooga, TN 37405

Don Safer
Tennessee Environmental Council
4517 Price Circle
Nashville, TN 37205

Sara Barczak
Southern Alliance for Clean Energy
428 Bull St. Ste 201
Savannah, GA 31401

James B. Sandlin
Scottsboro Electric Power Board
P. O. Box 550
Scottsboro, AL 35768

James Tidmore
Jackson County Commission
102 E. Laurel St., Suite 47
Courthouse
Scottsboro, AL 35768

Yolande McCurdy Gottfried
735 University Ave.
Sewanee, TN 37383

M.P. Hollaway
78 Hollaway Drive
Scottsboro, AL 35768

Jeannie Hacker-Cerulean
8012 Shallowford Road
Chattanooga, TN 37421

Tom Moss
1304 Wells Ave.
Huntsville, AL 35801

Ralph Timberlake
2117 Atkins Drive
Huntsville, AL 35810

Ellen O'Connor
728 County Road 219
Scottsboro, AL 35768

Sandra Kurtz
B.E.S.T.
3701 Skylark Trail
Chattanooga, TN 37416

William Reynolds
B.E.S.T.
3529 Dell Trail
Chattanooga, TN 37411

Garry Morgan
B.E.S.T.
130 Rome Street
Scottsboro, AL 35769

Hoyt Harbin
564 Micah Way
Scottsboro, AL 35769

Louis Zeller
BREDL
P.O. Box 88
Glendale Springs, NC 28629

Henry Lodge
Lodge Mfg. Co.
P.O. Box 380
South Pittsburg, TN 37380

Ross McCluney
3517 Elderview Drive
Chattanooga, TN 37419

Diane D'Arrigo
6930 Carroll Ave. #340
Takoma Park, MD 20912

Mike Kenamer
240 Moses Drive
Henagar, AL 35978

Rick Roden

407 E. Willow Street
Scottsboro, AL 35768

Zackary W. Rad
TVA
9949 Rolling Wind Drive
Soddy Daisy, TN 37379

Sara Fitzgerald
B.E.S.T.
1203 Melrose Street
Tullahoma, TN 37388

Troy Bell
ALDOT
P.O. Box 550
Guntersville, AL 35976

Mazie Aldrich
The Clarion
105 Liberty Lane Ste 700
Scottsboro, AL 35769

Kristen Puckett
194 Birdsong Way
Section, AL 35771

Curtis Davis
City of Scottsboro
316 S. Broad Street
Scottsboro, AL 35768

LaFreedra Jordan
Sen. Richard Shelby's Office
1000 Glen Hearn Blvd.
P.O. Box 20127
Huntsville, AL 35824

Jason Harper
Congressman Aderholt's Office
107 Federal Building
600 Broad Street
Gadsden, AL 35901

John Wygal
1208 Hood Ave.
Scottsboro, AL 35769

Joe Davis

526 Ney-A-Ti Drive
Guntersville, AL 35976

Mark D. Runion
3305 Nottingham Circle
Cleveland, TN 37323

Pete Johnson
109 Canterbury Road
Oak Ridge, TN 37830

Russ and Virginia Vizzini
1397 Peninsula Drive
Scottsboro, AL 35769

Jack Livingston
148 Bradford Road
Scottsboro, AL 35769

Bill Bradford
129 Bradford Road
Scottsboro, AL 35768

Ralph and Linda Chapin
12566 Griffith Highway
Whitwell, TN 37397

Ed and Shirley
21670 Alabama Hwy 71
Flat Rock, AL 35966

Larry H. Coote
467 Mountain Heights Ridge
Scottsboro, AL 35769

Robin Yates
549 Watts Bar Hwy.
Spring City, TN 37381

Harvey Reimer
3030 Clemons Road
Scottsboro, AL 35769

Linda McCain
90 County Road 338
Section, AL 35771

Wanza Lee
1000 Riverfront Parkway
Chattanooga, TN 37402
Bruce L. Purdy
41103 U.S. Hwy. 72
P.O. Box 628
Stevenson, AL 35772

Dave Shouse
204 E. Fifth Street
South Pittsburg, TN 37380

Jane Stump
Jackson County EMA
P.O. Box 566
Scottsboro, AL 35768

Lyle Sosebee
417 Ed Hembree Drive
Scottsboro, AL 35769

Jean Scott
BREDL
9514 Hemlock Drive
Huntsville, AL 35803

Nikko Aleman
S&ME, Inc.
2713 Kanasita Drive
Hixson, TN 37343

Bob Jackson
S&ME, Inc.
2713 Kanasita Drive
Hixson, TN 37343

Michael W. Deegan
Gulf Coast Resources LLC
101 Noble Drive
Huntsville, AL 35802

Floyd Hambrick
P.O. Box 128
Scottsboro, AL 35768

Rowland Matthews
United Cherokee Nation
P.O. Box 266

Grant, AL 35747

Norman Johnson
Eyecare Associates
828 S. Broad Street
Scottsboro, AL 35768
Echol E. Cook
Scottsboro Power Board
2550 Clemons Road
Scottsboro, AL 35769

Melton Potter
City of Scottsboro Fire
3007 Scenic Drive
Scottsboro, AL 35769

Charles Kimball
Ironworkers Local 704
2715 Belle Arbor Ave.
Chattanooga, TN 37406

Andy Mann
Regions Bank
510 E. Laurel Street
Scottsboro, AL 35768

Jerry Shady
Park Supply Co., Inc.
3307 S. Broad Street
Scottsboro, AL 35769

Sean Kimball
Ironworkers Local 704
2715 Belle Arbor Ave.
Chattanooga, TN 37406

Mary Arnold
P.O. Box 473
Hollywood, AL 35752

Denis Hoffman
105 Beard Street
Scottsboro, AL 35769

John T. Smith

856 Hancock Drive East
Scottsboro, AL 35769

Caara Stoney
3005 West Side Drive
Chattanooga, TN 37404
Richard Lorobel
907 Byron Road
Scottsboro, AL 35769

Jackie Tipper
Shoals Env. Alliance
1295 County Road 415
Town Creek, AL 35672

Ron Bailey
Chamber of Commerce
1114 Byron Road
Scottsboro, AL 35769

Ken Bonner
The Daily Sentinel
701 Veterans Drive
Scottsboro, AL 35768

Pam Ayers
High Country Automotive
3011 S. Broad Street
Scottsboro, AL 35768

Josephine Smith
Scottsboro City Council
1802 Lakeview Drive
Scottsboro, AL 35768

Marshall Stout
138 Canadian Drive
Scottsboro, AL 35769

Keith Denton
Intergraph Corporation
300 Intergraph Way
Madison, AL 35758

Mike Stitt
Southeast TN Dev. Dist.
1000 Riverfront Parkway
Chattanooga, TN 37402

Charles L. Rose
Shoals Env. Alliance
1206 N. Montgomery Ave.
Sheffield, AL 35660

David Wiggins
TVA-WBN
1797 W. Madison Ave.
Athens, TN 37303

Richard Grumbir
NuStart Energy
4205 Willow Bend Ct. SE
Decatur, AL 35603

Kim Stapleton
2616 NW 37th St.
Oklahoma City, OK 73112

Bellefonte COL Mailing List

Email Addresses:

rgraham@ncarpenters.com (Roger Graham)
finnbille@comcast.net (Finn Bille)
jabailey@tva.gov (Jack Bailey)
zwrad@tva.gov (Zackary Rad)
roden@scottsboro.org (Rick Roden)
kennamerm@nacc.edu (Mike Kennamer)
rmccluney@comcast.net (Ross McCluney)
bredl@skybest.com (Louis Zeller)
gmorg50@hotmail.com (Garry Morgan)
sandykurtz@comcast.net (Sandra Kurtz)
commission@icch.net (James Tidmore)
ralphtimberlake@hotmail.com (Ralph Timberlake)
jeannie.hackercerulean@gmail.com (Jeannie Hacker-Cerulean)
mr.carlson@knology.net (Tom Moss)
ygottfri@sewanee.edu (Yolande McCurdy Gottfried)
ellencnor@hotmail.com (Ellen O'Connor)
jimmy@sepb.net (James B. Sandlin)
shepard@scottsboro.org (Shelia Shepard)
cisland@aol.com (William Reynolds)
dsafer@comcast.net (Don Safer)
grogers@scottsboro.org (Goodrich Rogers)
dianed@nirs.org (Diane D'Arrigo)
jim.mccamy@mail.house.gov (Jim McCamy)
hlodge@lodgemfg.com (Henry Lodge)
hharbin@harbinford.com (Hoyt Harbin)
gkitchens@jwemc.org (George Kitchens)
romoore@myway.com (Rosa Lee Moore)
sarasfitz@aol.com (Sara Fitzgerald)
bellt@dot.state.al.us (Troy Bell)
fish4fun@scottsboro.org (Jenni Carter)
mazie@scottsboro.org (Mazie Aldrich)
Kristen@theclarion.org (Kristen Puckett)
cdavis@scottsboro.org (Curtis Davis)
LaFreed Jordan@shelby.senate.gov (LaFreed Jordan)
Jason.harper@mail.house.gov (Jason Harper)
dluchsinger@enercon.com (Deb Luchsinger)
joed@charter.net (Joe Davis)
mrunion@chartertn.net (Mark D. Runion)
chuckwilson5@bellsouth.net (Chuck Wilson)
sad@charter.net (Sherdia Davis)
jpreality@charter.net (Jamie Parham)
terranlamar@yahoo.com (Terran Tarver)
ep2q@yahoo.com (Elijah Prater)
wharbin@harbinford.com (Win Harbin)

Kensebek@flash.net (Ken Sebek)
petejohnson@windspring.com (Pete Johnson)

vizzi8@aol.com (Russ Vizzini)
robtmcm@gmail.com (Robert McMaster)
green9191@gmail.com (James Green)
Livingston@scottsboro.org (Jack Livingston)
Johnhall33@comcast.net (John David Hall)
Tet579@hotmail.com (Tom Taylor)
bbradford@scottsboro.org (Bill Bradford)
siwar@farmerstel.com (Ed and Shirley)
jareid@charter.net (Jim Reid)
coots467@charter.net (Larry H. Coote)
chris80@gmail.com (Chris Hamilton)
along@scottsboroschools.net (Angie Long)
ewelch@sewanee.edu (Clark Welch)
hreimer@hiwaay.net (Harvey Reimer)
ahall@alabamarivers.org (April Hall)
gposey2@aol.com (Grant Posey)
Linda.McCain@dir.alabama.gov (Linda McCain)
Tgilder1@luminant.com (Tim Gilder)
wanza@sedev.org (Wanza Lee)
david.brewer@htimes.com (David Brewer)
bpurdy@naecoop.com (Bruce L. Purdy)
bob.culver@adss.alabama.gov (Bob Culver)
icefgolf@yahoo.com (Philip Anderson)
rkasper@sewanee.edu (Rebecca Kasper)
egrays@sewanee.edu (Elizabeth Gray)
dshouse@lodgemfg.com (Dave Shouse)
ema2@jcch.net (Victor Manning)
ema@jcch.net (Jane Stump)
naleman@smeinc.com (Nikko Aleman)
bjackson@smeinc.com (Bob Jackson)
mwdeegan@myway.com (Michael Deegan)
ibonner@smurfit.com (Jayne Bonner)
sir@scottsboro.org (Rowland Matthews)
Carson.clark@whnt.com (Carson Clark)
Martha.shields@nuclear.energy.gov (Martha Shields)
njohnson@webeca.com (Norman Johnson)
mpotter@scottsboro.org (Melton Potter)
kwhatlen@adph.state.al.us (Kirk Whatlen)
darrin_holcomb@yahoo.com (Darrin Holcomb)
dan.isley@ema.alabama.gov (Dan Isley)
spkimball@iw704.com (Sean Kimball)
drarnold@scottsboro.org (Mary Arnold)
dmhoffman@tva.gov (Denis Hoffman)
2-shot@scottsboro.org (John T. Smith)
stoneyfritz@comcast.net (Caara Stoney)
rclemens@scottsboro.org (Robert N. Clemens)
mstout@scottsboro.org (Marshall Stout)
jactip@bellsouth.net (Jackie Tipper)
rbailey1114@charter.net (Ron Bailey)

ken.bonner@thedailysentinel.com (Ken Bonner)
leggs31056@yahoo.com (Pam Ayers)
josmith@scottsboro.org (Josephine Smith)
keith.denton@intergraph.com (Keith Denton)
charlotte.hughes@intergraph.com (Charlotte Hughes)
mstitt@sedev.org (Mike Stitt)
chuckrivers@comcast.net (Charles L. Rose)
marsha.amos@adeca.alabama.gov (Marsha Amos)
Richard_orthen@fpl.com (Richard Orthen)
drwiggins@tva.gov (David Wiggins)
rgrumbir@gmail.com (Richard Grumbir)
cemassey@tva.gov (Butch Massey)
neilhaggerty@comcast.net (Neil Haggerty)
rturney@enercon.com (Rachel Turney-Work)
richards.jon@epa.gov (Jon Richards)