



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

December 20, 2010

Mr. Ashok Bhatnagar  
Senior Vice President  
Nuclear Generation Development  
and Construction  
Tennessee Valley Authority  
6A Lookout Place  
1101 Market Street  
Chattanooga, TN 37402-2801

SUBJECT: BELLEFONTE NUCLEAR PLANT, UNIT 1—REQUEST EXTENSION TO  
CONSTRUCTION PERMIT (TAC NO. ME4914)

Dear Mr. Bhatnagar:

By letter dated October 8, 2010 (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System Accession No. ML102870233), the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA), requested the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) to extend its Construction Permit (CP) CPPR-122 for the construction of the unfinished Bellefonte Nuclear Plant (BLN), Unit 1 from October 1, 2011 to October 1, 2020. TVA indicated this additional time would allow completion of construction of BLN Unit 1 should TVA decide to move forward with project approval.

The purpose of this letter is to inform you of the NRC's plan for completing its review of your CP extension request.

TVA's letter, dated October 8, 2010, states that TVA has not made a decision at this time to build or complete any new generating capacity at the Bellefonte site. This decision is pending completion of TVA's Integrated Resource Planning process that is scheduled for the spring of 2011. Though no decision to build or complete any new generating capacity at the Bellefonte site has been made, TVA considers it necessary to continue to maintain its CPPR-122 CP for BLN Unit 1 to maintain a flexible range of generating options and alternatives for future baseload power supplies and competitive energy production choices. TVA indicates that it will continue to comply with the terms and conditions of the CP as required by NRC regulations, including NRC Commission Policy Statement on Deferred Plants (52 FR 38077; October 14, 1987).

Thus, TVA states that this additional time would allow TVA to either complete construction of BLN Unit 1 or allow TVA to continue to preserve and maintain BLN Unit 1 in a deferred status as a valuable asset pending a longer term determination of generation needs to meet future electrical demand.

A. Bhatnagar

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The NRC staff will review your request pursuant to the regulation contained in 10 CFR 50.55(b) and determine whether TVA has provided good cause to extend the completion date for a reasonable period of time and complete an associated environmental assessment (EA) as required under 10 CFR 51.22. The NRC staff is commencing a limited review with available resources. The NRC staff does not intend to complete the review before TVA's Integrated Resource Planning process is completed, which is currently scheduled for spring of 2011. The NRC staff intends to identify additional resources to complete the review should the TVA Board of Directors decide to proceed with construction and completion of BLN Unit 1.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact L. Raghavan, Senior Project Manager, Division of Operating Reactor Licensing at (202) 510-3764 or email [raghavan@nrc.gov](mailto:raghavan@nrc.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eric J. Leeds". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "E" and "L".

Eric J. Leeds, Director  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-438

The NRC staff will review your request pursuant to the regulation contained in 10 CFR 50.55(b) and determine whether TVA has provided good cause to extend the completion date for a reasonable period of time and complete an associated environmental assessment (EA) as required under 10 CFR 51.22. The NRC staff is commencing a limited review with available resources. The NRC staff does not intend to complete the review before TVA's Integrated Resource Planning process is completed, which is currently scheduled for spring of 2011. The NRC staff intends to identify additional resources to complete the review should the TVA Board of Directors decide to proceed with construction and completion of BLN Unit 1.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact L. Raghavan, Senior Project Manager, Division of Operating Reactor Licensing at (202) 510-3764 or email [raghavan@nrc.gov](mailto:raghavan@nrc.gov).

Sincerely,

**/RA/**

Eric J. Leeds, Director  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-438

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