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 50-439 BELLEFONTE NUCLEAR PLANT, UNIT 2, TENNESSEE VALLEY AU 05000439
 AUTH. NAME AUTHOR AFFILIATION
 GILLELAND, J.E. TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY
 RECIPIENT NAME RECIPIENT AFFILIATION
 PARR, O.D. LIGHT WATER REACTORS BRANCH 3

SUBJECT: DISCUSSES REQUIREMENTS RE ALLOWABLE ATOSPHERIC EXPOSURE TIMES FOR SHIELDED METAL ARC WELDING ELECTRODES.

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CHATTANOOGA, TENNESSEE 37401

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MAY 23 1979

Director of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
Attention: Mr. Olan D. Parr, Chief
Light Water Reactors Branch No. 3
Division of Project Management
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555

Dear Mr. Parr:

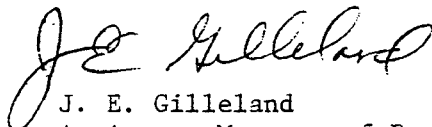
In the Matter of the Application of) Docket Nos. 50-438
Tennessee Valley Authority) 50-439

The Bellefonte Nuclear Plant Final Safety Analysis Report (FSAR) contains numerous references to editions earlier than the 1979 edition of the American Welding Society (AWS) Structural Welding Code, D1.1. These pre-1979 editions specify arbitrary limits of 1/2 to 4 hours on the allowable atmospheric exposure times for shielded metal arc welding electrodes. TVA would like to use the modified requirements for allowable atmospheric exposures in the 1979 edition of the Structural Welding Code for all welding at Bellefonte Nuclear Plant within the scope outlined in the FSAR.

Arizona Public Service Company submitted data for Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station (Dockets STN-50-528, 529, and 530) supported by Bechtel Corporation, Topical Report SLNRC 78016, File 0268, which resulted in the NRC accepting allowable atmospheric exposure times of up to 10 hours based on testing for work at Palo Verde. This same data was presented to the AWS and resulted in Section 4.5 of the 1979 edition of D1.1 permitting one to conduct a testing program to extend the allowable atmospheric exposure times to up to 10 hours.

TVA intends to proceed to conduct the tests required by AWS D1.1-79, and the results of the testing program will then be used to determine the allowable atmospheric exposure times for all welding within the scope of the FSAR. Please advise us if this course of action is unacceptable.

Very truly yours,



J. E. Gilleland
Assistant Manager of Power

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