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 FACIL: 50-438 Bellefonte Nuclear Plant, Unit 1, Tennessee Valley Au 05000438
 50-439 Bellefonte Nuclear Plant, Unit 2, Tennessee Valley Au 05000439
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 MILLS, L.M. Tennessee Valley Authority
 RECIP. NAME RECIPIENT AFFILIATION
 DENTON, H.R. Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
 PARR, O.D. Light Water Reactors Branch 3

SUBJECT: Proposed change in 761005 fuel surveillance program for Mark C fuel assembly design. One precharacterized fuel assembly will be in Region 1, two in Region 2 & three in Region 3.

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MAY

TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY

CHATTANOOGA, TENNESSEE 37401

400 Chestnut Street Tower II

December 19, 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

Section 4.2.1.7 of the Bellefonte Nuclear Plant (BLNP) Final Safety Analysis Report (FSAR) requires a fuel surveillance program for the Mark C fuel assembly design, if BLNP is one of the first nuclear plants to shut down for the first cycle refueling outage with a full core of Mark C fuel assemblies. In our letter of October 5, 1976, to you, we briefly described the program and stated that six fuel assemblies, two in each region, would be precharacterized.

Upon further examination, TVA and B&W now believe that the fuel surveillance program would be enhanced by a redistribution of the six precharacterized fuel assemblies such that we would have one in region 1, two in region 2, and three in region 3 (as opposed to two in each region). The justification for this change is:

1. We would still have six precharacterized assemblies available at the end of the first cycle refueling outage for nondestructive measurements, and we would have one additional precharacterized assembly available for examination at the end of cycle 2 or cycle 3.
2. Many, if not most, of the phenomena of interest in a surveillance program are exposure related. Region 1 will be discharged with a relatively low exposure. Thus, substituting a precharacterized region 3 assembly for a precharacterized region 1 assembly provides a larger data base of higher exposure fuel.

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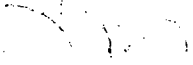
Director of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

December 19, 1979

We would appreciate an expeditious review and ruling on this proposal since we plan to direct B&W to precharacterize Mark C fuel assemblies for BLNP unit 1 as outlined in this letter by January 11, 1980.

Very truly yours,

TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY


L. M. Mills, Manager
Nuclear Regulation and Safety

cc: Mr. James McFarland
Senior Project Manager
Babcock & Wilcox Company
P.O. Box 1260
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