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 FACIL: 50-438 Bellefonte Nuclear Plant, Unit 1, Tennessee Valley Au 05000438  
 AUTH. NAME AUTHOR AFFILIATION  
 MILLS, L.M. Tennessee Valley Authority  
 RECIP. NAME RECIPIENT AFFILIATION  
 DENTON, H.R. Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, Director

SUBJECT: Advises of change in present best estimate of fuel load date for unit from Mar 1983 to Sept 1983 to provide for completion of preoperational tests. Licensing review schedule based on new date requested.

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# TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY

CHATTANOOGA, TENNESSEE 37401

400 Chestnut Street Tower II

December 1, 1981

Mr. Harold R. Denton, Director  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, DC 20555

Dear Mr. Denton:

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

TVA has recently reviewed the Bellefonte Nuclear Plant construction schedule and has concluded that the present best estimate of the fuel load date for unit 1 is September 1983. This is a change of six months from March 1983.

When the March 1983 date was established, it was based on the belief that preoperational testing could be done in 12 months. TVA now believes that 18 months is a realistic time to complete preoperational tests. While preoperational testing is the most significant reason for delaying the fuel load date, we also recognize that other parts of the project are slightly behind schedule and believe this is a realistic schedule for the remaining construction. TVA has also determined we cannot provide qualified operators in time to support fuel loading in March 1983.

As you are aware, the NRC Caseload Forecast Panel concluded that it was not likely that construction of Bellefonte unit 1 would be completed to the point of needing an OL before April 1984. While TVA does not agree with the NRC conclusions, we concede that the March 1983 fuel load schedule was overly optimistic. However, TVA believes it has adequate programs, resources, management emphasis, and manpower to support a September 1983 fuel load date. Therefore, TVA requests that NRC develop a detailed licensing review schedule based on a fuel load date of September 1983.



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Mr. Harold R. Denton, Director

December 1, 1981

In accordance with D. G. Eisenhower's August 3, 1981 request, TVA will provide NRR quarterly updates on construction progress until issuance of the Safety Evaluation Report in order to keep you up-to-date on construction progress.

If you have any questions concerning this matter, please get in touch with R. H. Shell at FTS 858-2688.

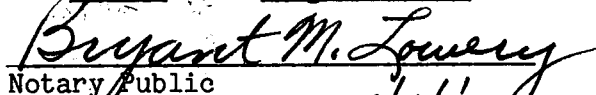
Very truly yours,

TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY

  
L. M. Mills, Manager

Nuclear Regulation and Safety

Sworn to and subscribed before me  
this 1st day of Dec. 1981

  
Notary Public  
My Commission Expires 4/4/82

cc: Mr. J. McFarland  
Senior Project Manager  
Babcock & Wilcox Company  
P.O. Box 1260  
Lynchburg, Virginia 24505