

April 6, 1993

Mr. Ivan Selin
Chairman
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Office of Public Affairs
Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Sir:

As a neighbor of the proposed Bellefonte Nuclear Power Plant, a TVA ratepayer, and a U.S. taxpayer, I would like to put on record my opposition to the completion of the Bellefonte facility. I think that putting this plant on line would be a threat to the health and well being of the residents of the area as well as a foolish waste of our tax dollars. The only reason the TVA gives - FOR WHICH FACTUAL PROOF HAS BEEN GIVEN - for resuming construction of this plant is that they have already wasted \$4 billion on it. I find using a \$4 billion old mistake to justify a \$2 billion new mistake ridiculous. Of course they claim that their research shows that the plant will be needed in the near future, but as yet they have not released any FACTUAL information to substantiate this claim.

At the 3/10/93 TVA Board of Director's Meeting, one of their employees stated that a decision to give out facts and figures in this area would need to be weighed carefully because these facts and figures could be useful to TVA's competitors. Who are TVA's competitors? Private companies owned by private (taxpaying) citizens? It was my understanding that TVA was to produce such efficient, economical power that they would be the yardstick by which private companies measured their success - the ones who set a goal to which private companies might aspire. Obviously this is not the case if instead of sharing their wisdom TVA is forced to hide their knowledge from the citizens they are supposed to serve - the citizens who pay TVA's way - the citizens who eventually will be forced to pay the huge debt TVA has built and adds to daily. TVA likes to remind us that they have done a good job keeping rates stable for the past several years - they never seem to mention that their debt keeps climbing. They can hide their financial mismanagement in a way that private companies can not. The shareholders of a private company would never stand for a debt ratio like that. I think we would be wise to remember that as TVA ratepayers &/or American taxpayers, WE are TVA's "shareholders" - the one's who will be called on eventually to pay TVA's debt. Remember the Savings and Loan scandal? Remember the National Debt?

I have talked to several people who live in this area who have expressed fears

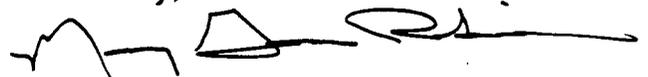
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about the health risks of an accident at the plant, concerns about what will be done with the radioactive waste produced, concerns about the effect the plant may have on recent efforts to sell our area to tourists and retirees, and concerns that TVA is not capable of running this plant in an efficient or economical manner. Some have gone so far as to say that TVA has outlived it's purpose and should be done away with. Those of us who have lived with the long line of construction workers and engineers at the plant know that many of them are intelligent, hard working people with the best interests of humanity in mind. Many of them are people I count as friends. Many have contributed greatly to the community with their time and talents. But we have also listened to many who were bragging about how much they are paid to do nothing, or worse yet bragging of how many marijuana cigarettes they smoked or beers they drank on the job without getting caught. Unfortunately, the nuclear power industry can not afford the number of mistakes that many other industries could live with - ONE bad apple really will spoil the whole barrel; ONE mistake is all that is required to create an accident of devastating proportions.

The biggest "pros" for the plant around here are the construction jobs it will bring, the need for housing for new workers, and the service jobs created by new people moving into the area. MANY people have expressed to me their joy at the prospect of selling a lot in a new housing development, a house that's been on the market a long time, a high paying job for a child graduating from school soon, etc., while in the same breath expressing their fear of the plant opening. They want to "have their cake and eat it too", as one lady expressed it. They want construction to continue forever, but the plant never to open.

I believe that the misguided financial decisions TVA is now making will one day soon make the Savings & Loan scandal pale in comparison. Unfortunately, with TVA in the nuclear power business, their rape of our pocketbooks may be secondary to their rape of our environment and health.

Sincerely,



Mary Garner Robinson
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