

# PRIORITY 1

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SUBJECT: Provides response to NRC GL 95-03, "Circumferential Cracking of SG Tubes."

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Tennessee Valley Authority, Post Office Box 2000, Hollywood, Alabama 35752

June 27, 1995

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
ATTN: Document Control Desk  
Washington, DC 20555

Gentlemen:

In the Matter of the Application of )  
Tennessee Valley Authority )

Docket Nos. 50-438  
50-439

**BELLEFONTE NUCLEAR PLANT (BLN) - RESPONSE TO NRC GENERIC LETTER (GL) 95-03 - CIRCUMFERENTIAL CRACKING OF STEAM GENERATOR TUBES**

Pursuant to 10 CFR 50.54(f), this letter provides BLN's response to GL 95-03 regarding circumferential cracking of steam generator tubes and the need to utilize inspection techniques which will reliably detect degraded steam generator tubes. TVA is presently engaged in an Integrated Resource Planning (IRP) process to consider the least cost options for providing an adequate supply of electricity to TVA's customers. As part of this planning process, TVA is evaluating the completion of the BLN units along with other generating options. Consequently, the completion schedule for BLN is currently undefined and the BLN steam generator inspection program has not yet been developed.

The circumferential cracking issue addressed in the subject GL has some applicability to the Babcock and Wilcox (B&W) steam generators. However, by virtue of the once-through steam generator design and tubing material, the tubes have not been susceptible to many of the cracking mechanisms known to exist in other steam generator designs. BLN will continue to follow this issue, in particular the performance of the once-through steam generators at the B&W operating plants, and will implement a steam generator inspection program capable of reliable detection of circumferential cracking. BLN will provide a complete response to GL 95-03 prior to initial fuel loading for each unit. The commitment contained in this letter is listed on the Enclosure.

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PDR ADOCK 05000438  
A PDR

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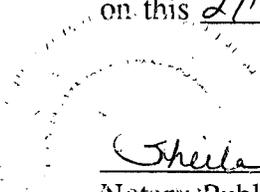
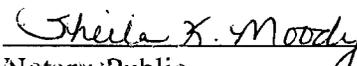
June 27, 1995

Should there be any questions regarding this information, please telephone  
J. E. Blackburn, BLN Nuclear Assurance and Licensing Manager, at 205/574-8058.

Sincerely,

  
Nicholas C. Kazanas  
General Manager

Subscribed and sworn to before me  
on this 27<sup>th</sup> day of June 1995

  
  
Notary Public

My Commission Expires 10/12/98

Enclosure

cc: see page 3

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June 25, 1995

cc (Enclosure):

NRC Resident Inspector  
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**ENCLOSURE**

**BELLEFONTE NUCLEAR PLANT (BLN)  
RESPONSE TO GENERIC LETTER 95-03, CIRCUMFERENTIAL CRACKING OF  
STEAM GENERATOR TUBES**

**COMMITMENT**

- BLN will provide a complete response to GL 95-03 prior to initial fuel loading for each unit.