

TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY

6N 38A Lookout Place

OOT 10 1990

Mr. James M. Taylor  
Executive Director for Operations  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
OWFN 17G21  
Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Mr. Taylor:

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

Docket Nos. 50-438  
50-439

BELLEFONTE NUCLEAR PLANT (BLN) - STATUS UPDATE

The status of the Tennessee Valley Authority's (TVA's) BLN has been the subject of some media attention recently. I would like to take this opportunity to provide you with a brief update on BLN and to suggest a meeting to discuss the plant's status in more detail.

The results of TVA's recently completed BLN assessment contribute to TVA's confidence in the feasibility of completing construction and resuming active licensing efforts for BLN. Before TVA reviews the possibility of reactivating BLN, however, we must carefully evaluate the relevant regulatory, financial, and other uncertainties associated with completion of BLN and what other options may be available to TVA consistent with TVA's goal of serving the Tennessee Valley.

Until BLN is removed from its deferred status, TVA will of course continue to implement its NRC-approved layup and preservation program, including maintenance and preservation of equipment and material, retention and protection of records, and verification of construction status. In addition, to enable TVA to assess uncertainties concerning completion and licensing of BLN, we plan to undertake certain activities during the next twelve to eighteen months, prior to any decision to resume construction. These activities could include, for example, evaluations of completed work; assessment of the condition of certain equipment, systems and structures; and detailed planning and scheduling activities. Engineering review and analysis of safety and nonsafety related systems will be undertaken to support licensing assessment. Completion of some permanent office and construction-support facilities may be undertaken. Additionally, we may assess the impact of and develop criteria for NRC regulatory positions developed since deferral of BLN work.

We believe that these activities may be undertaken consistent with both TVA's construction permit for BLN Units 1 and 2 and with NRC guidelines set forth in the Commission Policy Statement on Deferred Plants. In the event that TVA elects to proceed with the reactivation of BLN, we would then plan to resume unrestricted activity (including construction) 120 days after filing with the NRC the "120-day letter" identified in Section 6 of the Policy Statement.

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Mr. James M. Taylor

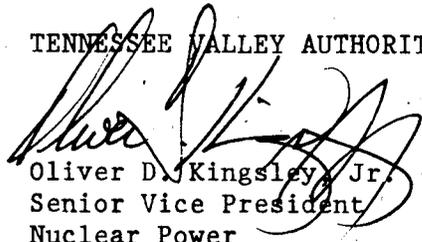
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I suggest that TVA meet with you, Dr. Murley, and senior members of your staff to discuss the BLN assessment and any other current matters of interest with regard to BLN. Bruce Schofield (615/751-2693) of TVA will contact your office to schedule a mutually convenient meeting date, perhaps during the week of October 29 through November 2, 1990.

We look forward to developing a dialogue with you and your staff on our planning and other important issues affecting BLN.

Very truly yours,

TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY

  
Oliver D. Kingsley, Jr.  
Senior Vice President  
Nuclear Power

cc: Ms. S. C. Black, Deputy Director  
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