



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

June 12, 2012

Mr. Michael D. Skaggs
Senior Vice President
Nuclear Construction
Tennessee Valley Authority
6A Lookout Place
1101 Market Street
Chattanooga, Tennessee 37404-2801

SUBJECT: BELLEFONTE NUCLEAR PLANT, UNITS 1 AND 2 – REVIEW OF 60-DAY RESPONSE TO REQUEST FOR INFORMATION REGARDING RECOMMENDATION 9.3 OF THE NEAR-TERM TASK FORCE RELATED TO THE FUKUSHIMA DAI-ICHI NUCLEAR POWER PLANT ACCIDENT (TAC NOS. ME8665 AND ME8666)

Dear Mr. Skaggs:

By letter dated March 12, 2012, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) issued a request for information pursuant to Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR), Section 50.54(f), which included the Near Term Task Force (NTTF) Recommendation 9.3 for Emergency Preparedness. Specifically, licensees and holders of construction permits in active or deferred status were requested to assess their means to power communications equipment onsite and offsite during a prolonged station blackout event and to perform a staffing study to determine the staff required to fill all necessary positions in response to a multi-unit event. If a licensee or permit holder could not meet the requested 90-day response, then that licensee or permit holder was required to provide a response within 60 days of the issuance of the letter describing an alternative course of action and estimated completion date.

By letter dated May 3, 2012, the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) submitted its 60-day response for Bellefonte Nuclear Plant, Units 1 and 2 proposing an alternative course of action based upon the site currently being in a deferred plant status as defined by the Commission's Policy Statement on Deferred Plants (Generic Letter 87-15).

The NRC staff concludes that TVA has provided an adequate basis for its proposed alternative course of action that it plans to take in response to NTTF Recommendation 9.3 regarding communications and staffing in the 10 CFR 50.54(f) letter.

M. Skaggs

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If you have any questions, please contact me at 301-415-1457.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Patrick D. Milano". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "P" and a long, sweeping underline.

Patrick D. Milano, Senior Project Manager
Watts Bar Special Projects Branch
Division of Operating Reactor Licensing
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-438 and 50-439

Enclosure: Staff Assessment

cc w/encl: See next page

M. Skaggs

Tennessee Valley Authority
cc:

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BELLEFONTE NUCLEAR PLANT

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Montgomery, AL 36130-3017

Chairman
Jackson County Commission
Courthouse
Scottsboro, AL 35752-0200

Director
Alabama Emergency Management Agency
P.O. Drawer 2160
Clanton, AL 35045-5160

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION STAFF ASSESSMENT

INFORMATION REQUEST MADE UNDER 10 CFR 50.54(f)

REGARDING NEAR-TERM TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATION 9.3

TENNESSEES VALLEY AUTHORITY

BELLEFONTE NUCLEAR PLANT, UNITS 1 AND 2

DOCKET NOS. 50-438 AND 50-439

By letter dated March 12, 2012 (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession No. ML12073A348), the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) issued a request for information pursuant to Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR), Section 50.54(f), which included the Near Term Task Force (NTTF) Recommendation 9.3 for Emergency Preparedness (EP). Specifically, licensees and holders of construction permits in active or deferred status were requested to assess their means to power communications equipment onsite and offsite during a prolonged station blackout event and to perform a staffing study to determine the staff required to fill all necessary positions in response to a multi-unit event. If a licensee or permit holder could not meet the requested 90-day response, then that licensee or permit holder was required to provide a response within 60 days of the issuance of the letter describing an alternative course of action and estimated completion date.

By letter dated May 3, 2012 (ADAMS Accession No. ML 12129A039), the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) submitted its 60-day response for Bellefonte Nuclear Plant (BLN), Units 1 and 2 proposing an alternative course of action based upon the facility being in a deferred plant status.

TVA will submit a construction reactivation letter to the NRC for BLN Unit 1 in accordance with the provisions of NRC Generic Letter 87-15, "Policy Statement on Deferred Plants," for the resumption of construction at the site when TVA is ready to move forward with construction activities.

BLN Units 1 and 2 are currently in a deferred plant status and are not required to have an EP program while in this status. When TVA submits an update to its existing operating license application for BLN Units 1 and 2, it will submit an Emergency Plan as required by 10 CFR 50.34(b). The submitted Emergency Plan will be subject to the regulations in 10 CFR 50.47 and Appendix E of 10 CFR Part 50. The submitted Emergency Plan will also be required to include all requested actions and information in the 10 CFR 50.54(f) letter for the NTTF Recommendation 9.3 for communications and staffing, the new EP Rule issued on November 23, 2011, and other rulemaking and regulatory changes that have occurred since the existing operating license application was submitted.

The NRC staff reviewed TVA's proposed alternative and the basis for the proposed alternative as outlined in the May 3, 2012, letter. The NRC staff concludes that TVA has provided an adequate basis for its proposed alternative course of action that it plans to take in response to NTTF Recommendation 9.3 regarding communications and staffing in the 10 CFR 50.54(f) letter.

Enclosure

M. Skaggs

- 2 -

If you have any questions, please contact me at 301-415-1457.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Patrick D. Milano, Senior Project Manager
Watts Bar Special Projects Branch
Division of Operating Reactor Licensing
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-438 and 50-439

Enclosure: Staff Assessment

cc w/encl: See next page

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ADAMS Accession No. ML12164A283

*concurrence via email

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