

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

ATOMIC SAFETY AND LICENSING BOARD PANEL

Before the Licensing Board:

G. Paul Bollwerk, III, Chair  
Dr. Anthony J. Baratta  
Dr. William W. Sager

In the Matter of

TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY

(Bellefonte Nuclear Power Plant Units 3 and 4)

Docket Nos. 52-014-COL and 52-015-COL

ASLBP No. 08-864-02-COL-BD01

August 8, 2012

MEMORANDUM AND ORDER

(Incorporating Revisions to the Rules of Practice)

On August 3, 2012, the agency published in the Federal Register a notice of the adoption of a final rule that outlines changes to its 10 C.F.R. Part 2 rules of practice. See Amendments to Adjudicatory Process Rules and Related Requirements, 77 Fed. Reg. 46,562 (Aug. 3, 2012). Among the alterations is one that potentially impacts scheduling for this proceeding. A change incorporated into 10 C.F.R. § 2.309(i)(1) provides that the applicant and the NRC staff have twenty-five days to file an answer to a hearing petition, or to any subsequently filed request to admit a new or amended contention. See id. at 46,592. This revision can be compared with the provisions of the Licensing Board's initial prehearing order setting a fourteen-day time period for an answer to a motion to admit a new or amended contention. See Licensing Board Memorandum and Order (Initial Prehearing Order) (June 18, 2008) at 6 n.4 (unpublished).

According to the explanation in the agency's statement of considerations regarding the effectiveness of these rule changes relative to any ongoing proceedings, any "new or amended

requirements will be effective and govern all obligations and disputes that arise after the effective date of the final rule,” i.e., September 4, 2012. Id. at 46,562. The statement of considerations thereafter provides an example regarding the impact of the rule’s changes on the fourteen-day mandatory discovery disclosure deadline under existing section 3.336(d), which (absent some other party agreement) is changed to a specified monthly due date. The agency’s statement of considerations indicates that a monthly disclosure schedule consistent with the new language in section 2.336(d) is to take effect following the September 4 effective date of the rule change.<sup>1</sup> See id. These provisions of the agency’s statement of considerations effectiveness account thus suggest that, absent some new Board order to the contrary reflecting an agreement of the parties or some other factor that provides an appropriate basis for establishing another time period, the final rule’s twenty-five-day time frame governing applicant and staff answers to a new/amended contention admission motion would govern in this proceeding.

Given there currently is no already-established briefing schedule that would be affected by this rule change, absent some request from the parties to the contrary submitted in accordance with the schedule established below for responding to this issuance, the Board will consider the twenty-five-day response time established by revised section 2.309(i)(1) for answers to motions to admit new/amended contentions as governing this proceeding going forward.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> The Board notes that for this proceeding the parties recently proposed, and the Board adopted, a mandatory discovery schedule that seemingly conforms with revised section 2.336(d). See Licensing Board Memorandum and Order ((Revising Schedule for Mandatory Disclosure/Hearing File Updates) (Apr. 20, 2012) at 1-2 (unpublished).

<sup>2</sup> In this regard, we also note that under another recent change embodied in section 2.309(j)(1), the period within which a licensing board is to make a decision on a motion to admit a new/amended contention is designated as forty-five days from either the filing of the

(continued...)

If, after reviewing the recent modifications to the agency's rules of practice, any party sees any other revision that it believes requires an additional scheduling change or some other Board action in this proceeding, it should bring the matter to the Board's attention in a response to this issuance that should be filed on or before Monday, August 20, 2012.

It is so ORDERED.

FOR THE ATOMIC SAFETY  
AND LICENSING BOARD

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G. Paul Bollwerk, III  
CHAIR

Rockville, Maryland

August 8, 2012

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<sup>2</sup>(...continued)  
movant's reply or any prehearing conference regarding the motion, whichever is later. See  
77 Fed. Reg. at 46,592. For scheduling purposes, we will utilize this revision as well.

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Units 3 and 4) )  
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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that copies of the foregoing **MEMORANDUM AND ORDER (Incorporating Revisions to the Rules of Practice)** have been served upon the following persons by the Electronic Information Exchange and by electronic mail as indicated by an asterisk\*.

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Atomic Safety and Licensing Board Panel  
Mail Stop: T-3F23  
Washington, DC 20555-0001

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Office of the General Counsel  
Mail Stop: O-15D21  
Washington, DC 20555-0001

G. Paul Bollwerk, III, Chair  
Administrative Judge  
E-mail: [paul.bollwerk@nrc.gov](mailto:paul.bollwerk@nrc.gov)

Jody C. Martin, Esq.  
E-mail: [jody.martin@nrc.gov](mailto:jody.martin@nrc.gov)  
Michael Spencer, Esq.  
[michael.spencer@nrc.gov](mailto:michael.spencer@nrc.gov)

Dr. Anthony J. Baratta  
Administrative Judge  
E-mail: [anthony.baratta@nrc.gov](mailto:anthony.baratta@nrc.gov)

Andrea Silvia, Esq.  
[andrea.silvia@nrc.gov](mailto:andrea.silvia@nrc.gov)  
Patrick Moulding, Esq.  
E-mail: [patrick.moulding@nrc.gov](mailto:patrick.moulding@nrc.gov)  
Karin A. Francis, Paralegal  
[karin.francis@nrc.gov](mailto:karin.francis@nrc.gov)

Dr. William W. Sager  
Administrative Judge  
E-mail: [william.sager@nrc.gov](mailto:william.sager@nrc.gov)

Jonathan C. Eser, Law Clerk  
[jonathan.eser@nrc.gov](mailto:jonathan.eser@nrc.gov)

OGC Mail Center  
E-mail: [OGCMailCenter@nrc.gov](mailto:OGCMailCenter@nrc.gov)

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Office of Commission Appellate Adjudication  
Mail Stop: O-16C1  
Washington, DC 20555-0001  
Roland Frye, Esq.  
[roland.frye@nrc.gov](mailto:roland.frye@nrc.gov)

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Office of the Secretary of the Commission  
Mail Stop: O-16C1  
Washington, DC 20555-0001

OCAA Mail Center  
E-mail: [ocaamail@nrc.gov](mailto:ocaamail@nrc.gov)

Hearing Docket  
E-mail: [hearingdocket@nrc.gov](mailto:hearingdocket@nrc.gov)

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Morgan, Lewis & Bockius, LLP  
 Counsel for Tennessee Valley Authority  
 1111 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.  
 Washington, DC 20004

Tennessee Valley Authority  
 Office of the General Counsel  
 400 W. Summit Hill Drive, WT 6A-K  
 Knoxville, TN 37902

Steven P. Frantz, Esq.  
 E-mail: [sfrantz@morganlewis.com](mailto:sfrantz@morganlewis.com)  
 Stephen J. Burdick, Esq.  
 E-mail: [sburdick@morganlewis.com](mailto:sburdick@morganlewis.com)  
 Alvin H. Gutterman, Esq.  
 E-mail: [agutterman@morganlewis.com](mailto:agutterman@morganlewis.com)  
 Jonathan M. Rund, Esq.  
 E-mail: [jrund@morganlewis.com](mailto:jrund@morganlewis.com)  
 Kathryn M. Sutton, Esq.  
[ksutton@morganlewis.com](mailto:ksutton@morganlewis.com)  
 Mary L. Freeze, Legal Secretary  
 E-mail: [mfreeze@morganlewis.com](mailto:mfreeze@morganlewis.com)  
 Audrea Salters, Legal Secretary  
 E-mail: [asalters@morganlewis.com](mailto:asalters@morganlewis.com)

Edward J. Vigluicci, Esq.  
 E-mail: [ejvigluicci@tva.gov](mailto:ejvigluicci@tva.gov)  
 Maria V. Gillen, Esq.  
[mvgillen@tva.gov](mailto:mvgillen@tva.gov)  
 Christopher Chandler, Esq.  
 E-mail: [ccchandler0@tva.gov](mailto:ccchandler0@tva.gov)  
 Scott A. Vance, Esq.  
 E-mail: [savance@tva.gov](mailto:savance@tva.gov)

Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League,  
 Inc. (BREDL)  
 P.O. Box 88  
 Glendale Springs, NC 28629

Louis A. Zeller, Administrator and  
 Science Director  
 E-Mail: [bredl@skybest.com](mailto:bredl@skybest.com)

Bellefonte Efficiency & Sustainability Team  
 185 Hood Drive  
 Crossville TN 38555

North Carolina Waste Awareness  
 and Reduction Network  
 P.O. Box 2793  
 Chapel Hill, North Carolina 27515

Louise Gorenflo  
 E-mail: [lgorenflo@gmail.com](mailto:lgorenflo@gmail.com)

John D. Runkle, Esq.  
 E-mail: [jrunkle@pricecreek.com](mailto:jrunkle@pricecreek.com)

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Southern Alliance for Clean Energy (SACE)  
428 Bull Street, Suite 201  
Savannah, GA 31401

Sara Barczak, Director\*  
E-mail: [sara@cleanenergy.org](mailto:sara@cleanenergy.org)

[Original signed by Nancy Greathead]  
Office of the Secretary of the Commission

Dated at Rockville, Maryland  
this 8<sup>th</sup> day of August 2012