



Tennessee Valley Authority, 1101 Market Street, Chattanooga, Tennessee 37402

CNL-15-083

May 6, 2015

The Honorable Stephen G. Burns
Chairman
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555-0001

Subject: **TVA Endorsement of Proposed Variable Fee Structure for NRC Review of Small Modular Reactors (SECY-15-0044)**

Dear Chairman Burns:

The Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) recently submitted a letter to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), supporting the NRC staff's intent to establish "a lower and variable annual fee" for small modular reactors (SMRs). This intent is described in SECY-15-0044, and is based on the expectation that "most SMRs may not require the same amount of NRC staff regulatory services as their larger counterparts." As NEI points out, the approach proposed in SECY-15-0044 is consistent with the industry's preferred approach discussed in NEI's associated white paper from November 2010 (ML103070148), and with the NRC Chief Financial Officer's 2011 memorandum regarding the intended rulemaking (ML110380251). The Tennessee Valley Authority endorses NEI's position regarding SECY-15-0044, and joins NEI in encouraging Commission approval to move forward with this important action and assign the rulemaking a high priority.

TVA is currently in pre-application engagement with the NRC staff in anticipation of an SMR-based Early Site Permit application. TVA's future plans relative to SMRs are subject, in part, to timely action on matters such as this. The proposed change to Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulation* Part 171 will affirm an important aspect of cost reduction commensurate with the expected level of regulatory oversight for SMRs.

If additional information is needed, please contact Mr. Eugene Cobey at (423) 751-3928.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "JWShea".

J. W. Shea
Vice President, Nuclear Licensing

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cc:

The Honorable Kristine L. Svinicki, Commissioner, NRC
The Honorable William C. Ostendorff, Commissioner, NRC
The Honorable Jeff M. Baran, Commissioner, NRC
Ms. Maureen E. Wylie, CFO
Mr. Mark A. Satorius, EDO
Mr. Glenn M. Tracy, NRO
Mr. Michael E. Mayfield, NRO/DARR
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