

July 15, 2015

J.W. Shea, Vice-President  
Nuclear Licensing  
Tennessee Valley Authority  
1101 Market Street  
Chattanooga, TN 37402

SUBJECT: TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY CLINCH RIVER SMALL MODULAR  
REACTOR PROJECT EARLY SITE PERMIT APPLICATION ONLINE  
REFERENCE PORTAL

Dear Mr. Shea:

The staff of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is currently engaged in pre-application activities with the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) in preparation for TVA's intended submittal of an early site permit (ESP) application for the Clinch River Site in the first quarter of calendar year 2016. To improve the efficiency of pre-application engagement, and ultimately the ESP environmental and safety reviews, TVA and NRC staff discussed the use of an online reference portal that would provide NRC and NRC-contracted staff limited, read-only access to certain material associated with the ESP application. By letter dated April 30, 2015,<sup>1</sup> TVA notified the NRC of its intent to provide NRC staff access to an online portal so that staff may examine materials in support of the pre-application readiness assessment of the proposed ESP application.

During pre-application interactions, the online reference portal will support readiness assessment activities that are designed to identify information gaps, identify major technical or policy issues, and allow the staff to become familiar with the application. Upon receipt of the ESP application, the online reference portal will allow the NRC staff to audit documents to determine whether the information contained in the documents support the application. During the ESP review, should the staff identify information necessary for its analysis of the application or development of the environmental impact statement and safety evaluation report, the staff will formally request such documents to be submitted on the docket.

TVA's above mentioned letter stated that certain conditions will be maintained throughout the duration of the pre-application activities and application review process. These conditions include the following:

- The online reference portal will be password-protected, and passwords will be distributed to staff directly involved in the pre-application interactions and the ESP review on a need-to-know basis;
- The online reference portal will disable any printing, saving, or downloading functions;

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<sup>1</sup> Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession No. ML15124A655.

- Conditions of use of the online reference portal will be displayed on the "home page" and concurrence by each user of the online reference portal will be obtained prior to granting access.

The NRC staff confirms that the above conditions associated with the online reference portal must be maintained throughout the duration of the ESP readiness assessment and the application review process. The staff also confirms that any member of the staff or its contractors given password access to the online reference portal will be informed of the conditions of use of the online reference portal by NRC project managers.

Should you have any questions, please contact Mr. Joseph Williams, Senior Project Manager, at 301-415-1470 (email at [joseph.williams@nrc.gov](mailto:joseph.williams@nrc.gov)) or Ms. Tamsen Dozier, Environmental Project Manager, at 301-415-2272 (e-mail at [tamsen.dozier@nrc.gov](mailto:tamsen.dozier@nrc.gov)).

Sincerely,

*/RA/*

Mark Tonacci, Chief  
Small Modular Reactor Licensing Branch  
Division of Advanced Reactors and Rulemaking  
Office of New Reactors

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cc: See next page

J. Shea

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Should you have any questions, please contact Mr. Joseph Williams, Senior Project Manager, at 301-415-1470 (email at [joseph.williams@nrc.gov](mailto:joseph.williams@nrc.gov)) or Ms. Tamsen Dozier, Environmental Project Manager, at 301-415-2272 (e-mail at [tamsen.dozier@nrc.gov](mailto:tamsen.dozier@nrc.gov)).

Sincerely,

/RA/

Mark Tonacci, Chief  
 Small Modular Reactor Licensing Branch  
 Division of Advanced Reactors and Rulemaking  
 Office of New Reactors

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**ADAMS Accession No: ML15149A397**

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