

TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY

CHATTANOOGA, TENNESSEE 37401  
400 Chestnut Street Tower II

July 9, 1980

JACKET NUMBER PR-51 (27)  
PROPOSED RULE (45 FR 24168)

Secretary of the Commission  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, DC 20555

Attention: Docketing and Service Branch

Dear Sir:

The Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) is pleased to provide comments on the proposed amendments to 10 CFR Part 51, "Alternative Site Reviews" as noticed in the April 9, 1980, Federal Register (45 FR 24168-24177).

The TVA Board has established a policy that for the foreseeable future any additional nuclear capacity needs will be met with our existing reactor sites insofar as feasible. We believe the proposed amendments should clarify the treatment of existing reactor sites as candidates for additional reactors. It should be stated clearly whether the required slate of four candidate sites may be comprised solely of existing reactor sites. It should be stated what would be required of the applicant in terms of establishing the basis for limiting the candidates to existing sites. Finally, the rule should identify whether the applicant may employ a product-oriented review to identify existing sites as candidates based on threshold criteria or whether a process-oriented review be required.

We also believe clarification is needed in the area of existing sites which were assessed under previous regulatory criteria and which will be treated under present regulatory criteria, e.g., could this have regulatory implications to the existing reactor(s) or would the site be automatically ruled out for additional reactors if the current criteria are not met? We emphasize that TVA supports the concept of environmental diversity; however, we believe the approach of requiring candidate sites located in different physiographic regions could result in the unnecessary identification and evaluation of candidate sites in areas that would not have been selected for other valid reasons. For example, areas or whole water bodies may exist within the region of interest where the water body itself or surrounding physiography is unsuited or undesirable for plant development. NEPA does not require a specific number of sites to be developed as alternatives, just as the law does not require a diversity of types of sites to be evaluated. Nor does NEPA require a program of mitigation. Strycker's Bay Neighborhood County, Inc. v. Karlen, \_\_\_\_\_ U.S. \_\_\_\_\_. 100 S. Ct. 497 (1980)



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Secretary of the Commission

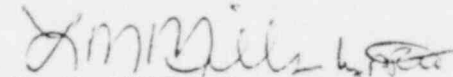
July 9, 1980

(per curiam). In a process-oriented review, these areas would be screened out before candidate site selection. In a product-oriented review it is doubtful that they would be identified based on threshold criteria. Rather than require candidate sites located in environmentally diverse areas, we suggest an approach whereby diversity is demonstrated in the site selection process, terminating in what appears to be the most reasonable candidate sites.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on the proposed rule change to 10 CFR Part 51.

Very truly yours,

TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY



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