

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**

**ATOMIC SAFETY AND LICENSING BOARD PANEL**

Before the Licensing Board:

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

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In the Matter of

TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY

(Bellefonte Nuclear Power Plant Units 3 and 4)

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

January 6, 2012

**UPDATE ON THE STATUS OF BELLEFONTE NUCLEAR PLANT  
UNITS 3 AND 4 COMBINED LICENSE APPLICATION**

In an April 21, 2011 Order, the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board (ASLB) requested that “TVA provide the Licensing Board with a status report that describes in as much detail as practicable TVA’s plans for reaching a decision regarding how TVA wishes to proceed with the licensing of [Bellefonte Nuclear Plant (BLN)] Units 1, 3, and 4.” *Tennessee Valley Authority* (Bellefonte Nuclear Power Plant Units 3&4), Memorandum and Order (Requesting TVA Status Report) (Apr. 21, 2011) (unpublished) at 2. In response, TVA filed a status report with the ASLB on May 6, 2011, in which TVA indicated its intention to continue the ongoing licensing

efforts for BLN 1 and BLN 3&4, understanding that any decision regarding completion of the partially-completed unit (BLN 1) or construction of new units (BLN 3&4) would impact the other project. TVA committed to inform the ASLB of any decision regarding TVA's completion of any nuclear units at the Bellefonte site as soon as practicable after a decision was made.

On September 2, 2011, TVA filed a second status report with ASLB, informing it that on August 18, 2011, the TVA Board of Directors authorized proceeding with licensing, construction, and commercial operation of BLN 1. While this decision established the priority for new nuclear development at the BLN site, this second status report explained that the continued pursuit of a combined license for BLN 3&4 remained consistent with TVA's overall strategy of pursuing a diverse generation portfolio that relies heavily on cleaner generation sources, including nuclear power, to meet future demand. Therefore, TVA explained to the ASLB that it was considering the best path forward with regard to maintenance of the BLN 3&4 COLA and that it would inform the ASLB when it made any future decisions in this regard.

On December 19, 2011, TVA informed the NRC licensing staff that it had determined that there is value to TVA in maintaining the option of pursuing construction of BLN 3&4 for the foreseeable future. Therefore, TVA requested that the NRC continue to defer review of the BLN 3&4 COLA indefinitely, consistent with the previous TVA/NRC agreement to place the application in a suspended status.

Continuing to hold the COLA in suspended status is important to the preservation of TVA's nuclear power generating options at the BLN site. As TVA has previously stated to the ASLB, should a decision be made to construct BLN 3&4 in addition to completing BLN 1 (and

potentially BLN 2), the current COLA would serve as the basis for a modified COLA that accounts for the necessary changes to reflect the additional unit(s). Alternatively, TVA desires to retain the current COLA to preserve the option of constructing BLN 3&4 without completing BLN 1 or BLN 1&2. TVA will likely want to preserve such an option until such time when construction is resumed and the licensing risks have been substantially addressed.

TVA will continue to inform the ASLB as future decisions are made regarding the current BLN 3&4 COLA.

Respectfully submitted,

Executed in Accord with 10 CFR 2.304(d)

/s/ Edward J. Vigluicci

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Dated in Knoxville, TN  
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**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that copies of “Update On The Status Of Bellefonte Nuclear Plant Units 3&4 Combined License Application” in the above-captioned proceeding have been served on the following persons by the Electronic Information Exchange.

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Dated in Knoxville, TN  
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