

August 2011

TVA Board of Directors

Chairman Dennis Bottorff

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Mike Duncan

Tom Gilliland

William Graves

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Richard Howorth

Neil McBride

William B. Sansom

Tennessee Valley Authority

400 West Summit Hill Drive

Knoxville, TN 37902

re: Bellefonte Nuclear Power Plant

Dear TVA Directors,

The members of the here listed organizations are extremely concerned to learn that a vote to continue construction of a nuclear reactor at Bellefonte will be considered at your August 18 board meeting. Given uncertainties regarding TVA financial status, Bellefonte location, questionable reactor design, and the future of the nuclear power industry in general, we believe it is ill-advised and premature to approve construction at this time.

We urge you to remove the Bellefonte item from your August agenda to allow time for resolution of the following uncertainties:

1. Extra safety measures from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission are still pending based on post-Fukushima lessons from the Fukushima meltdowns, explosions and evacuations. New NRC requirements will likely impact construction.
2. The added cost of a nuclear reactor at Bellefonte will cause TVA's debt to move near or over its Congressional mandated debt limit of \$30 billion. TVA debt is now \$24.1 billion, interest on that debt is \$24.8 billion. Long term total obligations including debt, interest on debt, fuel contracts, leases and power commitments are \$68.8 billion dollars (May 3, 2011 SEC Form 10Q filing). This places TVA in a precarious financial condition and BLN would be a very unwise choice for TVA in the current political and economic climate.
3. Litigation with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and the TVA is currently challenging improper procedures regarding NRC's reinstatement of cancelled Bellefonte construction permits for nuclear reactor Units 1 and 2. Oral arguments have not yet been scheduled.
4. We now know that the Bellefonte site is located in an earthquake zone with karst terrain and numerous sinkholes. This information for our safety has not been considered in the reinstated, previously cancelled, construction permit currently under litigation.

There are numerous other reasons why TVA should not take this unwise vote. After all, nuclear power is dangerous, has a real possibility of unthinkable accidents, is costly, and leaves a waste legacy without a solution. A nuclear plant uses an enormous amount of water and places

radiation in our water and air on a routine basis. When uranium mining and the fuel chain are included, nuclear power produces significant greenhouse gas emissions and does not help with climate change concerns – nuclear is not clean. In fact, nuclear power causes tens of thousands of sick and dying nuclear fuel workers to be paid compensation by the American taxpayer, \$7.2 billion dollars (with a \$150,000 ceiling per worker) just since 2004. TVA ratepayers would be required to pay for an unproven reactor design when in fact it is not needed. Instead, we ask you to consider increased energy efficiency, and the use of alternative energies as a way to avoid building any radioactive reactors.

Please wait for uncertainties to be resolved before determining how you will vote on the issue of Bellefonte construction. Now is not the time.

Very truly yours,

and these citizen groups:

Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League
Bellefonte Efficiency & Sustainability Team
Mothers Against Tennessee River Radiation
Center for Health, Environment & Justice
Nuclear Watch South
Citizens to ENDIT
United Mountain Defense
Nuclear Information and Resource Service
Friends of the Earth
Solar Valley Coalition
Tennessee Chapter of the Sierra Club
Tennessee Environmental Council

