



## Bellefonte Efficiency & Sustainability Team

B.E.S.T.

A local chapter of Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League • [www.bredl.org](http://www.bredl.org)



Dear NRC Commissioners:

May 21, 2011

We call on the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to demand accuracy in TVA Reports and to fully enforce scientifically based nuclear regulations in order to ensure the safety of the American people.

If the EF-5 tornado which took out power lines to the Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant (on April 27) had made a direct hit on the 'spent' fuel rods stored in cooling pools there – we might have had our own Fukushima, affecting close to one million people living within 50 miles of Browns Ferry.

TVA informed the media that the Browns Ferry emergency systems "performed as they were designed to do" – but this was not truthful. In the aftermath of the storms, the Browns Ferry systems did not perform as designed, according to Emergency Event No. 46793 reports on April 28 & May 3, and Events No. 46801 and 46805.

1. Only 12 of the required 100 off-site emergency sirens worked when the tornado hit, April 27, 2011.
2. Two of eight Emergency Diesel Generators were inoperable (EDGs A and 3 "B") on April 27, and a third (EDG "C") had to be shutdown on April 28.
3. On April 27, the Unit 3 "B" Main Steam Isolation Valve unexpectedly indicated "intermediate" – which may mean there was an electronic indicator problem, or the lack of Unit 3 "B" Emergency Diesel Generator caused the problem, or it was an actual emergency cooling system valve malfunction (cited recently by the NRC with a "red finding").
4. On April 28, an electrical part failure on Unit 1 initiated an automatic closure of Shutdown Cooling emergency valves. Power was restored after 47 minutes.
5. On May 2, Unit 1 "received an 'A' Emergency Generator output breaker trip for unknown reasons," resulting in a loss of Shutdown Cooling. Power was restored after 57 minutes.

And what if one of the Browns Ferry cooling pools, with only a sheet metal roof for overhead containment, had sustained a direct hit from that powerful tornado and water had been sucked out of a cooling pool and spread across the Tennessee Valley?

After Fukushima, an EF-5 tornado sweeping so close to three reactors and more than at Browns Ferry, and the 2006 National Academy of Sciences study commissioned by the NRC and Homeland Security, how many warnings do we need before we remove as much 'spent' fuel as possible from vulnerable cooling pools into more secure dry cask storage?

The NRC bears responsibility for ensuring public safety around nuclear power plants, and also for ensuring the accuracy of information provided to the public. We call on you to assert your authority on behalf of the citizens of the Tennessee Valley, and to demand accuracy in TVA's reports to the public. We also call on the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to fully enforce scientifically based nuclear regulations in order to ensure the safety of the American people.

Thank you for your time and attention to these problems, and for all the good you do.

Sincerely,  
Gretel Johnston, co-founder  
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