



# NRC NEWS

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Office of Public Affairs

Telephone: 301/415-8200

Washington, D.C. 20555-0001

E-mail: [opa@nrc.gov](mailto:opa@nrc.gov)

Site: <http://www.nrc.gov>

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No. 09-045

March 13, 2009

## **NRC ANNOUNCES OPPORTUNITY TO REQUEST A HEARING ON REINSTATING CONSTRUCTION PERMITS FOR BELLEFONTE 1 & 2**

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission today announced the opportunity for the public to request a hearing on whether good cause exists to reinstate the construction permits for the unfinished Unit 1 and 2 reactors at the Bellefonte site near Hollywood, Ala.

The Commission in February authorized the staff to take the unique step of reinstating the permits, which the Tennessee Valley Authority had withdrawn in 2006. In August 2008, TVA asked the NRC to reinstate the permits. The Commission, after considering the technical, regulatory, and legal aspects of TVA's request, concluded that there is sufficient reason to allow reinstatement of the construction permits, using a conservative sequential approach to ensure the safety of doing so.

The NRC staff issued an Order reinstating the permits, which returns the plants to a "terminated" status, meaning that TVA must provide significant additional information to show the plants could be upgraded to "deferred" status, which would be necessary to put the plants on a path to possible future construction. The docket numbers established for the permits are 50-438 and 50-439.

The NRC has published the Order in the *Federal Register*, <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2009/pdf/E9-5437.pdf>, which provides an opportunity to request a hearing on the Order, with a filing deadline of May 12. Petitions may be filed by anyone whose interest may be affected by the Order and who meets criteria set out in the NRC's regulations. More information on the hearing process is available on the NRC Web site at: <http://www.nrc.gov/about-nrc/regulatory/adjudicatory/hearing.html>.

A request for a hearing must be electronically submitted in a timely manner to the NRC's Electronic Information Exchange (EIE) system. The request must be filed in accordance with the NRC's E-Filing Rule that appeared in the *Federal Register* on Aug. 28, 2007, <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2007/pdf/E7-16898.pdf>. Additional guidance and instructions regarding electronic submissions to the NRC EIE system are available on the NRC Web pages at <http://www.nrc.gov/site-help/e-submittals.html>.

The agency granted construction permits for Bellefonte's two pressurized water reactors in 1974. By 1988, when TVA deferred completion of the plant, Unit 1 was approximately 88 percent complete, and Unit 2 was approximately 58 percent complete. There is no nuclear fuel on the site. The Bellefonte site is located on approximately 1,600 acres adjacent to the Tennessee River in northern Alabama.

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