

APPENDIX C

SCOPING MEETING REPORT

DRAFT SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

**Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant
Operating License Renewal
Athens, Alabama**

Scoping Report

TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY
March 2001



Introduction

TVA proposes to submit an application to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) requesting renewal of the operating licenses for Units 2 and 3 of the Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant (BFN), located in Limestone County, Alabama. In addition to requesting continued operation of Units 2 and 3 for an additional 20 years, consideration is being given to relicensing and recovery of Unit 1 which has been non-operational for 15 years; addition of a spent fuel storage facility; and a few new office buildings. This Supplemental EIS (SEIS) is being prepared to provide the public and TVA decision-makers an assessment of the environmental impacts of relicensing as well as the additional proposals.

In *Energy Vision 2020*, TVA's load forecast indicates that future electricity needs in the TVA Power Service Area will exceed TVA's current generating capacity by the year 2020. The proposal to renew the operating license for BFN and to restart Unit 1 are consistent with TVA's plans to continue to make maximum use of existing power production facilities at the BFN site into the foreseeable future in order to meet projected annual growth rate of two to three percent over the next 20 years.

An important activity in EIS preparation is the description of what topics the environmental review will cover, known as the **scope**. The EIS scope is based on the nature of the proposed action and the issues to be evaluated. During the scoping process, the general public, potentially affected parties, TVA experts, and other government agencies are asked to help identify the issues to be evaluated and to help define the alternative actions to be considered in the EIS. This report describes the scoping process used by TVA to determine the issues to be evaluated and the scope of the EIS based on public input.

The Scoping Process

TVA invited comments from the public to help determine the scope of this EIS by publishing a Notice of Intent (NOI) in the *Federal Register* (65 FR 47817) on February 15, 2001. The NOI provided background information on the reason for the EIS, a discussion of the alternatives being considered, and a description of the scoping process. A copy of the NOI is provided in Appendix E of the SEIS.

A public meeting was held on March 6, 2001 in Decatur, Alabama on the campus of Calhoun Community College. The public was notified about the meeting by paid newspaper announcements in the March 4, 2001 Sunday edition of the *Decatur Daily*, *The Athens News-Courier*, *The Huntsville Times*, and the *Florence Times Daily* and the March 6, 2001 edition of the *The Athens News-Courier*. A news release about the project and upcoming meeting was provided to the local media on March 4 and 6, 2001. Articles about the project and the public scoping meeting were carried in Sunday editions of *The Athens News-Courier* on February 25, 2001 and *The Decatur Daily* on March 4, 2001. *The Florence Times Daily* carried a

similar article on March 5, 2001. In addition to the paid announcement and press release, on February 22, 2001 TVA mailed a letter of invitation to the public meeting to 99 U. S. and State Representatives, area Mayors, County Commissioners, Judges, and other local officials.

The paid announcements included a map illustrating the location of Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant as well as the location of the public meeting. The announcements and the press release both stated that the meeting was being held to obtain public input on TVA's proposed plan to apply for renewal of the operating licenses for Units 1,2, and 3 at BFN. They further stated that written comments on the project would be received through March 23, 2001. Copies of the paid announcements and news releases are in Appendix E.

Approximately 60 members of the public along with 15 College officials attended the public meeting on March 6, including representatives from the following newspapers: *The Huntsville times*, *The Birmingham News*, *The Knoxville News-Sentinel*, *The Athens News-Courier*, *The Decatur Daily*, and *The Florence Times Daily*. Representatives from WVNN/WZYP radio and WVNN-TV, both from Athens, Alabama, were also present.

The meeting was facilitated by Dr. Dena Stephenson of Calhoun Community College. It began with a brief presentation by Karl Singer, Senior Vice President of Nuclear Operations. Mr. Singer explained the environmental review process, the purpose of scoping and the proposed BFN License Renewal Project. Following the presentation, the attendees were divided into four small groups facilitated by Calhoun State College and TVA staff. In the small groups, participants were invited to list **issues and concerns** (Question 1) they might have concerning the potential environmental impacts that might result from the proposed actions and alternatives to the proposed action (Question 2) that should be addressed in the SEIS.

Comments received during the public meeting were noted and later reviewed to help identify environmental issues that should be addressed in the SEIS as well as those minor issues which do not warrant detailed evaluation. In addition to the providing verbal input at a public meeting, the public and other government agencies were invited to provide written comments at the meeting, by mail, or by e-mail. One e-mail and two letters were received and are included in this scoping report.

Major Themes in Public Comments

Several recurring themes representing diverse points of view were present in the oral and written comments concerning this EIS project. Many commenters shared the following concerns or opinions regarding nuclear power and the relicensing of BFN:

- **Nuclear Waste** - People were concerned about how much high and low level waste would be generated, and how and where it would be stored. The cost of storage was also mentioned. One commenter, however, stated that the storage issue is a political scare.
- **Emergency Management/Safety** - People were concerned that there be adequate plans for evacuation to ensure the safety of those who live near the plant. The need to ensure worker safety and concerns about the age of Unit 1 as it relates to prospects for safe operation were also mentioned.
- **Water Quality** - Concerns were expressed about thermal impacts on water as well as run off from construction.
- **Cost of Restarting Unit 1** - People were concerned about the impact of completing Unit 1 on TVA's debt load.
- **Relationship to Plans for Bellefonte Nuclear Plant** - Several people questioned how plans for BFN would impact plans for nearby, incomplete Bellefonte Nuclear Plant and vice versa.
- **Alternatives to Relicensing and or Restarting Unit 1** - Of the many alternative power sources mentioned, the primary alternatives to additional nuclear power cited were coal, natural gas, energy conservation, and "green" energy sources. Fact-based clarification of TVA's future power needs was sought.
- **Proponents of Increased Nuclear Power** - Many participants favored nuclear power as the source of choice for the future, citing reduction of air pollution, sunk costs, safety, and environmental preference as reasons. Power shortages in California were cited as an example of the result of poor or weak power planning.

Table 1 includes a paraphrased list of all issues raised during public scoping for the Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant Relicensing project, by topic. A copy of the flip chart notes and letters received are part of the public record of this project.

Table 1 Topical List of Issues Raised During Public Scoping for Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant Relicensing Project

Topic	Sub Issues
1. Nuclear Waste/spent fuel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • dangers of transporting nuclear waste • cost of storing both low level and high level waste • disposition/management of spent fuel • amount of additional waste to be generated by Unit 1 • amount of low and high level waste to be generated (2)* • location of low and high level waste storage (3) • plans for on-site waste storage • safety precautions for on-site storage of high level waste • plans for further waste reduction • will TVA rent waste storage space on the Goshutes Indian Reservation • advocates national funding for technology to study hazard waste clean up and effects of nuclear energy use • nuclear waste storage is a political scare—not as big a problem as public perceives
2. Emergency management/Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • use of iodine capsules in case of disaster • proximity of nearest resident to plant • possibility of train tracks crossing the emergency route • adequacy of evacuation routes for traffic • range of evacuation plan • adequacy of safety monitoring (supervisors should live within 5-10 mile radius) • process for reporting safety problems for Unit 1 start-up • concerns about NRC becoming lax with aging reactors pushed beyond design limitations • implications of increasing dependence on aging, less reliable reactors • status of cracked shroud and implications for restart • amount of curies released into air/water • exposure of workers to ionizing radiation • responsibility for exposed workers

Topic	Sub Issues
3. Water Quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • increased heat load; temperature • potential impact of thermal plume on aquatic organisms (e.g. rough tiptoe musel) • construction runoff • more water screening at construction/demolition landfill • extent of use of cooling towers • meeting meet new EPA requirements on water intake and thermal discharge
4. Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • need more personnel and resources allocated to the environment (2) • what will be the net environmental impact of start-up
5. Environmental justice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • potential impact on low-income or minority population to plant
6. Public notification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • process for informing public about meeting • when will Unit 1 go on-line
7. Nuclear power, general	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • public needs more education to clear misconception; improve understanding of nuclear technology (how clean and safe it is) • public needs more education about BFNP safety record • Decatur needs a visitor area to show the public a nuclear plant • encourage and educate young people about nuclear power operations/ environmental tracking
8. Costs of Unit 1 restart	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • use cost/benefit analysis to choose best option • How was \$1B cost estimated (look at minimum costs to possible costs)? • Cost analysis of limited lifespan, considering plant is 15 years old • impact on TVA debt of bringing Unit 1 online—already \$25 billion (2) • cost comparison of starting Unit 1 Bellefonte vs. Unit 1 BFNP
9. Other Unit 1 startup issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • how will TVA compensate for parts taken from Unit 1 • how does restart fit with plans for river management and hydro generation • potential impact of TVA losing integrated river management system • effects of deregulation of BFNP Unit 1 startup • potential length of service for units under the re-licensing extension (TVA could ask NRC to extend licenses to account for years each unit was off line) • impact of Calpine, a proposed private merchant plant proposed for nearby location.

Topic	Sub Issues
10. Alternate uses of Unit 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • gas-powered plant (cost, impact of pipeline, environmental impact of plant)2) • look at cost/efficiency/ impact of coal plant • explore cost/competitiveness of natural gas • explore cost/competitiveness of using other sources • close Unit 1; build new nuclear plant elsewhere • consider the socioeconomic impacts of decommissioning BFNP
11. Other considerations for meeting new power needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • consider TVA's debt level • increase conservation; don't waste energy • is TVA expecting more use of its coal fired plants • control end-user demand (3) • energy efficiency initiatives (2) • population growth projections (anticipated growth/decline in demand) • need a balanced national energy policy—mix of sources • power supply planning is important and as are alternative power sources • deregulation will probably not benefit the public • improve efficiency of transmission to minimize power loss • improve building codes to require energy conservation • discuss TVA 's power mix in next 40 years • explore the long term implications of TVA's forecast of becoming more dependant on natural gas • alternative power source being considered if BFNP is decommissioned • decommission BFNP Units 1&2; use restart money for clean development of clean energy technologies like fuel cells, distributed generation • purchase power off-system • evaluate the possible sale of assets and service area to other utilities • explore relationship of increasing TVA nuclear power and reducing air pollution from fossil fuel • consider building new nuclear power plants (2) • nuclear power is most desirable long-term energy source (energy crisis is due to restrictions on fossil fueled energy sources have driven up price of natural gas) work aggressively to increase nuclear production (TVA and U.S.)(3)
12. Relationship to Bellefonte	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • does Bellefonte require a separate EIS • has there been any decision about whether or not to bring Bellefonte online • licensing status of Bellefonte/ relationship to Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant (2)

* Numbers in parentheses following comments indicate the number of times that or a similar comment was noted