



Note to Media: TVA will host a media availability this afternoon **AT 5:15 P.M. EDT** in response to the Southern Alliance for Clean Energy media event. Participating for TVA in today's call will be:

Ray Hruby (pronounced "Ruby"), [Bellefonte Project Director](#)
Wally Justice, Bellefonte [Site Engineering Manager](#)
Ray Golden, Nuclear Communications Manager

Dial-in Instructions: 423-751-2288 code number 3333#, follow voice prompts

Response to SACE Report on Bellefonte Project Aug. 9, 2011

The Tennessee Valley Authority has a vision to be a national leader in cleaner, competitively priced energy by 2020, and nuclear energy will play a critical role. TVA's Integrated Resource Plan has forecast the need for new generation sources in future years and identified nuclear power as a safe, reliable, low-cost energy source to meet that demand.

TVA has spent considerable time and effort in its analysis of the Bellefonte site. Based on that review, the TVA staff concluded that completing the Unit 1 reactor is TVA's best option for Bellefonte.

TVA has developed a three-phase approach to its nuclear program to ensure that no more than one project is involved in construction, engineering or development at the same time. This means Bellefonte Unit 1, now in the engineering phase, would not move into construction before Watts Bar Unit 2 is completed.

Specific Points:

- TVA used all known available technologies — visual inspection, core drilling, ultrasound and acoustic sounding — to investigate groundwater intrusion at Bellefonte Unit 1, and found no indication of compromise or degradation to the foundation. The containment building had no water intrusion at all.
- Unlike at Crystal River 3, the steam generators can be removed and replaced at Bellefonte Unit 1 through a hatch, eliminating the need to cut a hole in the containment.
- Within seven days of the event, TVA identified one vertical tendon that came loose from its coupling. The root cause determined that the problem was the result of a can of mechanical grease which can become contaminated with sulfites. TVA tested all other grease and

tendon couplings and determined there was no additional contamination or moisture problems.

- TVA has been a pioneer in concrete development, infusing TVA's concrete with fly ash from coal-fired power plants to make a much stronger product than standard aggregate concrete.

Other points

- A modernized, completed Bellefonte Unit 1 would essentially be a new unit, using the latest equipment and technology to meet the latest safety standards and regulations, including seismic and flooding requirements. The facility would be among the safest, most advanced nuclear sites in the country.
- As lessons are learned from the events in Japan, TVA would be able to incorporate changes on the front end of Bellefonte design and construction instead of having to retrofit the changes after construction. That's an advantage Bellefonte has over all operating nuclear plants.
- Now 55 percent complete, the Bellefonte Unit 1 would give TVA customers the benefit of \$2 billion worth of steel and concrete that TVA has already invested in the site.
- TVA has fully determined where equipment sold or transferred as part of the asset recovery program was previously located in Bellefonte Unit 1. Likewise, throughout the entire life of the plant TVA has maintained all quality assurance records in an onsite, climate-controlled vault.
- Nuclear energy remains the best option in the years ahead for providing safe and reliable energy at competitive prices to power economic growth in the Tennessee Valley region.
- Completing Bellefonte Unit 1 would help TVA achieve its vision for supplying cleaner, competitively priced energy in the decades ahead.
- The completed and modernized Bellefonte unit would use the latest nuclear equipment and technology, and integrate the modifications from Fukushima.
- Safety is the top priority in our nuclear program, and anything less is unacceptable.