The tentative agenda for this meeting includes: Presentations by staff from the Department of Labor’s Employment and Training Administration, National Center for O*NET Development and the U. S. Census Bureau; a presentation on the status of ongoing SSA FY 2011 OIS Development project and research activities currently underway; Occupational Information Development Advisory Panel Chair and subcommittee reports; public comment; panel discussion and deliberation; and, an administrative business meeting. We will post the final agenda on the Internet prior to the meeting at http://www.socialsecurity.gov.

The panel will hear public comment during the quarterly meeting on Wednesday, September 21, 2011 from 3:15 p.m. to 3:45 p.m. (EDT) and Thursday, September 22, 2011 from 2:15 p.m. to 2:45 p.m. (EDT). Members of the public must reserve a time slot—assigned on a first come, first served basis—in order to comment. In the event that scheduled public comment does not take the entire time allotted, the panel may use any remaining time to deliberate or conduct other business.

Those interested in providing testimony in person at the meeting or via teleconference should contact the panel staff by e-mail to OIDAP@ssa.gov. Individuals providing testimony are limited to a maximum of five minutes; organizational representatives, a maximum of ten minutes. You may submit written testimony, no longer than five (5) pages, at any time in person or by mail, fax or e-mail to OIDAP@ssa.gov for panel consideration.

Seating is limited. Those needing special accommodation in order to attend or participate in the meeting (e.g., sign language interpretation, assistive listening devices, or materials in alternative formats, such as large print or CD) should notify Leola Brooks via email to leola.brooks@ssa.gov no later than September 15, 2011. We will attempt to accommodate requests made but cannot guarantee availability of services. All meeting locations are barrier free.

For telephone access to the meeting on both days, please dial toll-free to (866) 882–0470.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Records of all public panel proceedings are maintained and available for inspection. Anyone requiring further information should contact the panel staff at: Occupational Information Development Advisory Panel, Social Security Administration, 6401 Security Boulevard, 3–E–26, Robert M. Ball Federal Building, Baltimore, MD 21235–0001. Fax: 410–597–0825. E-mail to: OIDAP@ssa.gov. For additional information, please visit the panel Web site at http://www.ssa.gov/oidap.

Leola S. Brooks, Designated Federal Officer, Occupational Information Development Advisory Panel
Dated: August 24, 2011.

J. Adam Ereli,  
Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, Department of State.

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BILLING CODE 4710–05–P

TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY

Final Environmental Impact Statement, Single Nuclear Unit at the Bellefonte Plant Site, Jackson County, AL

AGENCY: Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA).

ACTION: Issuance of Record of Decision.

SUMMARY: This notice is provided in accordance with the Council on Environmental Quality’s regulations (40 CFR 1500 to 1508) and TVA’s procedures implementing the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). On August 18, 2011, the TVA Board of Directors approved the recommendation to complete and operate Bellefonte Nuclear Plant Unit 1. A notice of availability (NOA) of the Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for a Single Nuclear Unit at the Bellefonte Plant Site (hereafter referred to as Bellefonte FSEIS) was published in the Federal Register on May 21, 2010. On August 20, 2010, the TVA Board approved the expenditure of $248 million for additional engineering, design, and licensing activities, as well as the procurement of long lead-time components for the partially complete Bellefonte Unit 1. The Record of Decision (ROD) documenting this decision was published on September 9, 2010 (75 FR 54961). Bellefonte Unit 1 is a 1,260-megawatt (MW) Babcock and Wilcox-designed pressurized light water reactor. This interim decision was made in order to maintain Unit 1 as a viable alternative to meet the projected need for base load generation on the TVA system in 2018–2020. 

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ruth Horton, Senior NEPA Specialist, Environmental Permits and Compliance, Tennessee Valley Authority, 400 West Summit Hill Drive, WT 11D, Knoxville, Tennessee 37902–1499; telephone: 865–632–3719; e-mail: blnp@tva.gov or Zackary Rad, Bellefonte Unit 1 Licensing Manager, Nuclear Generation Development and Construction, Tennessee Valley Authority, P.O. Box 2000, OSB 1A–BLN, Hollywood, Alabama 35752; telephone: 256–574–8263; e-mail: zrad@tva.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The September 2010 Bellefonte ROD provides information about this action, and reference should be made to that notice for more details, including information about the need for base load capacity, alternatives considered by TVA, the history of the Bellefonte project, environmental consequences, and other background information.

With almost 37,000 MW of net dependable summer generating capacity, TVA operates the nation’s largest public power system, producing 4 percent of all electricity in the nation. TVA provides electricity to most of Tennessee and parts of Virginia, North Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, and Kentucky. It serves about 9 million people in this seven-state region through 155 independent power distributors and 56 directly served large industries and Federal facilities. The TVA Act requires the TVA power system to be self-supporting and to be operated on a non-profit basis and directs TVA to sell power at rates as low as are feasible. Most of TVA’s power is supplied by three nuclear plants, 11 coal-fired plants, 12 gas-fired plants, 29 hydroelectric dams, and a pumped-storage facility and through power purchase agreements from a variety of energy sources including, but not limited to, wind, solar, natural and methane gas, hydroelectric, and lignite coal. TVA also purchases renewable energy from small producers in its Generation Partners Program. TVA transmits electricity from these facilities over almost 16,000 miles of transmission lines.

The Bellefonte FSEIS supplements and updates the original TVA Final Environmental Impact Statement for Bellefonte Nuclear Plant Units 1 and 2 (May 1974); the TVA Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Bellefonte Conversion Project (October 1997); the U.S. Department of Energy’s Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Production of Tritium in a Commercial Light Water Reactor (March 1999), which TVA adopted; and the TVA Bellefonte Nuclear Plant Units 3 and 4, Combined License Application Part 3, Environmental Impact Statement 1 (October 2008). Where pertinent, the Bellefonte FSEIS incorporates by reference, utilizes, tiers from, or updates information from this substantial environmental record.

The Bellefonte FSEIS also tiered from and incorporated by reference two TVA programmatic reviews, Energy Vision 2020 Integrated Resource Plan Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (December 1995) and Reservoir Operations Study Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (May 2004). In March 2011, TVA issued a new Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) and IRP Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for meeting future demand on the TVA power system over the next 20 years. The need for power analysis in the Bellefonte FSEIS is compatible with, and is updated by, the analysis in the 2011 IRP FEIS.

TVA’s 2011 IRP sets forth a planning direction to guide TVA in making future energy resource decisions. This direction includes, among other actions, significant increased investment in energy efficiency and demand response programs, the idling of existing coal units in an amount ranging from 2,400 to 4,700 MWs, and the addition of 1,150 to 3,650 MWs of nuclear capacity. Completion and operation of the 1,260–MW Bellefonte Unit 1 was one of the resource options analyzed in the 2011 IRP and is consistent with the planning direction approved by the TVA Board. Analyses show that even with substantial energy replacement through conservation measures, TVA must still add new base load generation to balance resources with the projected load requirements. Neither coal-fired nor natural gas-fired power was found to be environmentally preferable to nuclear power, and renewable energy sources were not found sufficient to meet power needs in the required time frame. Completing Bellefonte Unit 1 also would provide TVA more flexibility to idle existing coal plants. These conclusions are confirmed in TVA’s new IRP.

The decision to complete Bellefonte Unit 1 precludes further consideration of any of the options for converting the existing facilities at the Bellefonte site to a coal- or natural gas-fired plant that were analyzed in the 1997 FEIS for the Bellefonte Conversion Project.

Public Involvement

TVA published a notice of intent to prepare a supplemental environmental impact statement (SEIS) in the Federal Register on August 10, 2009. The NOA for the draft SEIS (DSEIS) was published in the Federal Register by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) on November 13, 2009. TVA accepted comments on the DSEIS until December 28, 2009. Approximately 50 people attended a public meeting on December 8, 2009, in Scottsboro, Alabama. Comments both for and against nuclear power generation were received from 35 individuals and four Federal and state agencies. After considering and responding to all substantive comments, TVA completed and issued the Bellefonte FSEIS, which identifies Alternative B, Completion and Operation of Bellefonte Unit 1, as TVA’s