



## Bellefonte Efficiency & Sustainability Team

**B.E.S.T.**

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

PRESS RELEASE  
For immediate release

Contact Person: Sandra Kurtz  
cell 423.488.5668

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### **BELLEFONTE NUCLEAR OPPONENTS SPEAK OUT AT HEARING**

#### **DID YOU KNOW?**

**The cost of Bellefonte units 3 and 4 built today would cost at least \$20 billion nearly doubling TVA's debt of \$25 billion.**

**The two reactors will draw 71 million gallons of water per day from the Gunterville Reservoir. That is more than all the public water systems in the Gunterville watershed combined.**

**Bellefonte plant is near the Eastern Tennessee Seismic Zone, considered one of the most active seismic areas east of the Rocky Mountains.**

**A Texas study found increased cancer rates in north central Texas since the Comanche Peak Nuclear Plant went online in 1992. There are 4 units now within 50 miles of Huntsville and 2 within 50 miles of Chattanooga.**

Nuclear power is not safe, environmentally sound, or economically viable according to members of BEST, the Bellefonte Efficiency & Sustainability Team. BEST members and other citizens cited a long list of concerns during the April 3 Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) Public Scoping Meeting sessions held in Scottsboro, Alabama. Degradation of water quality, reduction of available water quantity, health impacts for area residents from mercury and radiation emissions, lack of radioactive waste storage solutions, and a location in a questionable seismic zone were all concerns raised by those who spoke during both afternoon and evening sessions. There were also concerns about the extraordinary and unnecessary costs involved when, the group contends, there are cheaper alternatives.

The Scoping Meeting is part of the required process prompted by Tennessee Valley Authority's application for licensing of Units 3 and 4 nuclear power units at the Bellefonte site in Hollywood, Alabama. (Units 1 & 2 were never completed.) As part of the licensing process, NRC must review the application and carefully consider omissions, address public concerns, determine the accuracy and adequacy of data supplied, and consider alternative solutions before granting a license.

**TVA has not taken the implications of climate change into account in modeling. The recent drought caused the shut-down of both Browns Ferry and Sequoyah plants during summer because of high intake water temperature. Climatologists predict more frequent droughts in the future.**

**Wildlife officials say that the biological inventories for animals and plants are incomplete and dated. There are endangered and threatened species in the area.**

**The population around the Guntersville Reservoir has grown since the original application was submitted, but there is no corresponding updating of impacts for the new licensing application.**

**Use of alternative energies, efficiency and conservation can produce new green jobs with less expense and risk to the population.**

Yesterday, BEST, a chapter of the Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League filed a supplemental motion to suspend the hearing or extend the time to submit hearing requests and contentions. The motion followed a letter request to suspend the hearing from BEST member Louise Gorenflo in March citing the acknowledgement by NRC that the application was incomplete. TVA has been asked to update seismic information and was also notified of three violations with respect to its quality assurance program for hydrology.

Louise Gorenflo said, “Since these NRC requests will delay the evaluation and completion of the licensing application, it is premature to hold a hearing when the information for consideration is not available to NRC or the general public.”

“It is an unfair burden placed on concerned citizens to have to prepare for a hearing with inadequate or likely-to-change information and with absolutely no information on the design of the AP1000 Westinghouse nuclear reactor proposed for Bellefonte,” stated Lou Zeller, a representative of Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League and the BEST chapter.

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