

VIRGINIA ELECTRIC AND POWER COMPANY
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA 23261
February 21, 2001

United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Attention: Document Control Desk
Washington, D.C. 20555

Serial No. 01-103
NL&OS/ETS
Docket No. 50-338
License No. NPF-4

Gentlemen:

VIRGINIA ELECTRIC AND POWER COMPANY
NORTH ANNA POWER STATION UNIT 1
ASME SECTION XI INSERVICE INSPECTION PROGRAM
REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
FOR ALTERNATIVE EXAMINATION OF WELD 4

In a May 8, 2000 letter (Serial No. 00-246), Virginia Electric and Power Company (Dominion) proposed an alternative for the examination coverage requirements for reactor vessel welds in 10 CFR 50.55a(g)(6)(ii)(A). Due to internal reactor vessel interferences, the required 90% examination volume could not be obtained for one of the three reactor vessel shell welds examined during the spring 2000 refueling outage. In a February 7, 2001 telephone conference call, the NRC staff requested that we provide our basis for not performing additional examination of the outside diameter of the reactor vessel weld to augment the reduced coverage obtained on the inside diameter weld examination. The following provides our basis for not performing examination of the weld on the outside diameter.

Volumetric examination of weld 4 from the outside has been considered and determined to be impractical. The examination is not feasible partially due to the congestion in the area below the vessel caused by the flux thimble guide tubes and their associated supports. Also the approximate gap between the neutron shield tank and the reactor vessel in the proximity of weld 4 is only 7½-inches. An ultrasonic examination scan from the head side of the weld would be limited as a result of the curvature of the head to shell transition. Attaining full coverage of the required examination volume above the weld is not possible due to accessibility limitations. It is our position that there would be no significant increase in examination coverage by performing the volumetric examinations from the outside of the vessel.

If you have questions concerning these requests, please contact us.

Very truly yours,



Leslie N. Hartz
Vice President - Nuclear Engineering and Services

Commitments made in this letter: None

A047

cc: U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
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