



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

L. Preston Bryant, Jr.
Secretary of Natural Resources

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
Street address: 629 East Main Street, Richmond, Virginia 23219
Mailing address: P. O. Box 10009, Richmond, Virginia 23240
Fax (804) 698-4500 TDD (804) 698-4021
www.deq.virginia.gov

David K. Paylor
Director

(804) 698-4000
1-800-592-5482

August 2, 2006

Mr. Jack Cushing
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
GWFN 11 F-1
Washington, D.C. 20555

RE: Supplement to the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for an
Early Site Permit (ESP) at the North Anna ESP Site (NUREG-1811,
Supplement 1)
DEQ-06-125F

Dear Mr. Cushing:

On behalf of the agencies of the Commonwealth of Virginia involved in reviewing the above-named Supplement, I request an extension of time for our submission of comments to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). Specifically, I request an extension of time to September 22, 2006 for your receipt of our comments on the Supplement. The original deadline, as stated in the Supplement and in Federal Register notices from NRC (Volume 71, Number 133, dated July 12, 2006, pages 39372-39373) and the Environmental Protection Agency (Volume 71, Number 135, pages 40096-40097) was August 28. A rationale and some particulars follow.

As you know, the Department of Environmental Quality, through its Office of Environmental Impact Review (this Office), coordinates Virginia's review of federal environmental documents filed pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and responds to appropriate federal officials on behalf of the Commonwealth. This Office also coordinates the Commonwealth's review of federal consistency certifications for federally licensed or permitted projects filed pursuant to the Coastal Zone Management Act.

The review of the Supplement coincides with our review of the new information for the federal consistency certification concerning a different cooling method for proposed Unit 3 of the applicant's North Anna Power Station. That review began on May 5, upon receipt of complete information on the new cooling

Mr. Jack Cushing
Page 2

method, and we have already received more than 350 individual comments from the public, many of which have requested more time for review and comment as well as a public hearing. In addition, we have received many comments with similar requests from representatives of the Friends of Lake Anna, an organization with more than 2,600 members who live at or near Lake Anna. Under our federal consistency review authority, we have extended the deadline for public comments to September 8, and announced a public hearing on the proposal, scheduled for August 16. (Our federal consistency certification deadline is November 3.) Under NRC's NEPA authority, NRC has announced a public meeting on the subject, as analyzed in the Supplement, for August 15. Preparation of information and other needs for the public hearing, in combination with responding to public and agency inquiries, has placed significant burdens on this Office and on all reviewing agencies and entities. Keeping the different processes in focus following receipt of additional public hearing comments and responding effectively to the Supplement and the federal consistency certification will add to those burdens. These are some, but not all, of the reasons for my request for an extension of time.

Thank you for your consideration. If you need additional information, please feel free to call me (telephone (804) 698-4325).

Sincerely,



Ellie L. Irons
Program Manager
Office of Environmental Impact Review

cc: Chris Nolan, NRC
Michael P. Murphy, DEQ-DEE