



July 10, 2012 (9:10 am)

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ADJUDICATIONS STAFF

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June 28, 2012

Secretary, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555-0001
ATTN: Rulemakings and Adjudications Staff

REFERENCE:

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission: Notice of Public Comment on Petition for Rulemaking (PRM), dated February 15, 2012; In Response to Petitioner's Request that NRC amend its regulations to expand the Emergency Planning Zones (EPZs) for nuclear power plants.

CITATIONS:

Document Citation: 77 FR 25375

Docket Number: NRC-2012-0046

Docket Name: Petition for Rulemaking Submitted by Nuclear Information and Resource Service and Multiple Co-Petitioners - Expansion of Emergency Planning Zone

Gentlemen and Ladies:

The Commonwealth of Virginia hereby wishes to comment on the referenced petition and the prospective rulemaking. We have reviewed the petitioner's request, and while we find that the request appears unjustified, we reserve judgment on the need to extend the respective emergency planning zones for the nation's commercial nuclear power stations until additional reviews are completed and scientific analyses, such as that undertaken by the Virginia Department of Health, are fully examined and satisfied by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, other supporting federal agencies, and any credible third party interests.

The Commonwealth of Virginia has to date experienced a 35-year history of successful nuclear power generation by the two nuclear power stations—North Anna Power Station and the Surry Power Station—that are owned and operated by Dominion Virginia Power, and while that history is commendable, we appreciate the public's concern and perception regarding life safety issues and will take all practical steps and ensure that appropriate systems are put in place and

"Working to Protect People, Property and Our Communities"

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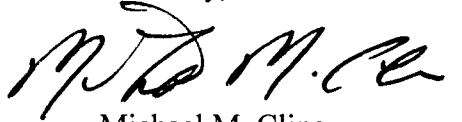
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implemented to enhance public safety in behalf of the citizens of the Commonwealth. In that regard, the agencies of the Commonwealth of Virginia will continue to support the affected local governments and the utility and, moreover, undertake any efforts to improve the safety and well-being of individuals who might be at risk to a radiological emergency caused by a nuclear power station emergency or incident.

We thank the Commission for the opportunity to comment on the petitioner's request. Clearly, the Commonwealth stands ready and is already committed to work with the NRC, the US Department of Homeland Security, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency, in particular to implement any necessary changes based on credible findings.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. M. Cline", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Michael M. Cline

MMC/gonu

C: The Honorable Marla G. Decker, Secretary of Public Safety, Commonwealth of Virginia
Dr. Karen Remley, MD, MBA, FAAP, State Health Commissioner,
Virginia Department of Health
Mr. David Heacock, President and CNO, Dominion Nuclear