

May 2, 2016

Ms. Cindy Schulz
Field Office Supervisor
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Richmond Virginia Field Office
6669 Short lane
Gloucester, VA 23061

SUBJECT: DETERMINATION OF NO EFFECTS REGARDING ENDANGERED OR
THREATENED SPECIES AND CRITICAL HABITAT FOR THE NORTH ANNA
POWER STATION INDEPENDENT SPENT FUEL STORAGE INSTALLATION
LICENSE AMENDMENT REQUEST (DOCKET NO.: 72-0016)

Dear Ms. Schulz:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) received, by letter dated August 24, 2015, an application from the Virginia Electric and Power Company (Dominion) to amend Materials License Number SNM-2507 for the North Anna Power Station (NAPS) Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation (ISFSI). On October 8, 2015, Dominion submitted the associated environmental report. The NAPS ISFSI is located within the site boundary of the NAPS, in Louisa County, Virginia, approximately 40 miles north-northwest of Richmond, Virginia (figure enclosed). Dominion is requesting that its license be amended to change an ISFSI Technical Specifications (TS). This change would allow storage of spent fuel with a higher initial enrichment and burn-up (HBU) than currently specified in the TS. The spent fuel would be stored in a modified TN-32B (TN-32B HBU) bolted lid cask with thermocouples to monitor the temperatures in the cask, which will, in turn, support the High Burn-up Dry Storage Casks Research and Development Project sponsored by the Department of Energy and the Electric Power Research Institute. The data obtained will provide details on the effects of long-term dry cask storage on high burn-up fuel assemblies. If this amendment is approved the TN-32B HBU is scheduled to be loaded with HBU fuel from the NAPS during the summer of 2017. The cask will be stored in a vacant spot on the existing Pad 1 of the NAPS specifically-licensed ISFSI.

Dominion anticipates no new construction activities or land disturbances as part of this license amendment request. In addition, no radioactive gaseous or liquid effluents are released from, nor is solid waste generated at, the ISFSI during routine operation. Dominion also anticipates no changes in radiological dose impacts to workers or the public, as a result of the license amendment.

The NRC staff is preparing an environmental assessment (EA) for the proposed action in accordance with the NRC regulation in Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations*, Part 51 that implements the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended. In accordance with Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, the EA will include an analysis of potential impacts to endangered or threatened species or critical habitat. In support of the environmental review, the

NRC completed the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) Virginia Ecological Services online project review process. Enclosed is the Self-Certification Letter and the project review package. As Stated in the FWS Self-Certification Letter "Therefore, we concur with the "no-effect" or "not likely to adversely affect" determinations for proposed and listed species and proposed and designated critical habitat; the "may affect" determination for Northern long-eared bat; and/or the "no Eagle Act permit required" determinations for eagles. Additional coordination with this office is not needed." The NRC will proceed with a determination that the proposed amendment to the TS, will not affect listed endangered or threatened species or their critical habitat.

The NAPS ISFSI amendment application is publicly available in the NRC Public Document Room located at One White Flint North, 11555 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland 20852, or from the NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS). The ADAMS Public Electronic Reading Room is accessible at: <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>. The ADAMS Accession Number for the application package is ML15239B251 and for the environmental report is ML15289A189.

Please submit your concurrence or any comments and information that you may have regarding this matter within 30 days of the receipt of this letter to the NRC with Attn: Ms. Lydia W. Chang, 11555 Rockville Pike, Mail Stop T-4B16, Rockville, MD 20852. If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Jean Trefethen of my staff by telephone at 301-415-0867 or via e-mail at: Jean.Trefethen@nrc.gov. Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

/RA Jessie Muir-Quintero Acting for/

Lydia W. Chang, Chief
Environmental Review Branch
Division of Fuel Cycle Safety, Safeguards
and Environmental Review
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

Docket No.: 72-16
License No.: SNM-2507

Enclosures:

1. Figure 1 - North Anna Site Layout
(NRC, 1997)
2. Self-Certification Package

cc: Troy Anderson, FWS-VA

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ADAMS Accession Number: ML16120A189

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DATE	4/25/16	4/26/16	4/30/16	5/2/16

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