



Telegram

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01062 RICHMOND VA 237 03-20 330P EST
PMS JOSEPH M. HENDRIE, CHAIRMAN
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION DLR
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WASHDC

ON TUESDAY, MARCH 13, 1979, THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION ORDERED THE SHUTDOWN OF FIVE NUCLEAR PLANTS WITHIN FORTY-EIGHT HOURS. TWO OF THESE PLANTS WERE VIRGINIA ELECTRIC AND POWER COMPANY'S SURRY UNIT NOS. 1 AND 2 (THE LATTER ALREADY DOWN FOR STEAM GENERATOR REPLACEMENT).

THESE PLANTS ARE TO REMAIN DOWN PENDING NRC'S REVIEW OF THE REANALYSIS OF PIPING STRESS AT THE SURRY UNITS. WE BELIEVE THAT THERE ARE IMPORTANT FACTORS WHICH MUST BE CONSIDERED BY NRC IN PREPARING FOR AND CONDUCTING ITS REVIEW OF VIRGINIA

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ELECTRIC AND POWER COMPANY'S AND STONE AND WEBSTER'S REANALYSIS. SPECIFICALLY, THE RELIABILITY, ADEQUACY AND COST OF ELECTRIC SERVICE. THE SURRY UNITS PROVIDE A SOURCE OF ELECTRIC ENERGY TO AN AREA ALREADY HEAVILY DEPENDENT ON OIL FOR POWER GENERATION AND THE SHUTDOWN OF THESE UNITS WILL NECESSITATE ADDITIONAL RELIANCE ON OIL DURING A TIME WHEN THE WORLD OIL MARKETS ARE IN A STATE OF DISRUPTION.

FURTHERMORE, SHOULD THE ORDERED SHUTDOWNS EXTEND OVER A PROLONGED PERIOD OF TIME IT COULD CAUSE THE POSTPONEMENT CANCELLATION OF PLANNED MAINTENANCE ON OTHER OF THE COMPANY'S UNITS THEREBY CREATING A POTENTIAL ADVERSE IMPACT ON SYSTEM RELIABILITY AND ADEQUACY DURING THE SUMMER PEAKING SEASON AS WELL AS CREATING A SERIOUS ADVERSE ECONOMIC IMPACT ON VIRGINIA RATEPAYERS.



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BECAUSE OF THESE FACTORS WE URGE THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY
COMMISSION TO BE PREPARED TO REVIEW THE RESULTS OF THE
REANALYSIS AS SOON AS IT BECOMES AVAILABLE AND TO COMPLETE
ITS REVIEW PROMPTLY

PRESTON C. SHANNON, COMMISSIONER

STATE CORPORATION COMMISSION OF VIRGINIA

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