

VIRGINIA ELECTRIC AND POWER COMPANY
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA 23261

W. L. STEWART
VICE PRESIDENT
NUCLEAR OPERATIONS

March 14, 1983

Mr. Harold R. Denton, Director
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
Attn: Mr. Steven A. Varga, Chief
Operating Reactors Branch No. 1
Division of Licensing
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D. C. 20555

Serial No. 139
FR/NAS: du
Docket No. 50-280
License No. DPR-32

Gentlemen:

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION FOR CYCLE 7 RELOAD
SURRY NUCLEAR POWER STATION UNIT NO. 1

Surry Unit 1 completed its sixth cycle of operation on February 8, 1983. During Cycle 6 operation Vepco experienced levels of primary coolant radioactivity which were indicative of fuel element defects in the core. This information was reported to the NRC in LER 81-033/03L-0 dated September 15, 1981, and subsequent LER's.

As a result of the primary coolant activity Vepco began planning an extensive fuel examination program to identify the assemblies containing fuel failures. This program was initiated on March 5, 1983, and as a result of the first examination phase (binocular visual examination), Vepco has concluded that 3 assemblies, which were scheduled to be returned to the Cycle 7 core, contain fuel defects. As a result, we have instructed Westinghouse to proceed with the development and evaluation of an alternate core loading pattern for Cycle 7. This evaluation is scheduled to be complete in early April. You will be notified of the results of the evaluation in accordance with 10CFR50.59.

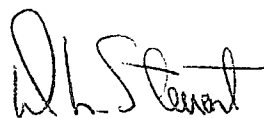
In the event that Technical Specifications changes are required to support Cycle 7 operation with the revised core loading pattern, we will be contacting you to request expeditious review of the change request as we discussed with Mr. D. J. Neighbors on December 17, 1982. This accelerated review would be needed to support our current operating schedule, which calls for Cycle 7 startup by April 23, 1983.

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This letter is provided for your information and planning. However, should you have any questions, please contact us at your earliest convenience.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "W. L. Stewart". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

W. L. Stewart
Vice President
Nuclear Operations

cc: Mr. James P. O'Reilly
Regional Administrator
Region II