

VIRGINIA ELECTRIC AND POWER COMPANY  
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA 23261

W. L. STEWART  
VICE PRESIDENT  
NUCLEAR OPERATIONS

August 1, 1983

Mr. Harold R. Denton, Director  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation  
Attention: Mr. D. G. Eisenhut, Director  
Division of Licensing  
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, D. C. 20555

Serial No. 432  
PSB/HSM:jdm:0580C  
Docket Nos. 50-338  
50-339  
50-280  
50-281  
License Nos. NPF-4  
NPF-7  
DPR-32  
DPR-37

Gentlemen:

This letter is being sent to express Vepco's concern over the timeliness of the NRC's review of our applications dealing with spent fuel related issues.

Vepco submitted an application to store spent fuel from Surry Power Station at the North Anna Power Station by letter dated July 13, 1982 (Serial No. 331). We have just received a "draft" of a set of questions on this application on July 18, 1983, more than one year after submittal. An application to allow the installation and use of Neutron Absorber Spent Fuel Racks at North Anna was submitted by letter dated August 20, 1982 (Serial No. 450). The majority of the questions on this application were just recently received during the week of July 1, 1983 by telecopy. Both of these matters are also presently under consideration by the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board. In a prehearing conference held February 16, 1983 in Bethesda, Md., the NRC staff committed to have their reviews complete and to issue the SERs and EIAs for these applications by August, 1983. The NRC staff has now forwarded a letter stating that they will not be able to issue the safety evaluations and impact appraisals until the end of the year (1983) or early in 1984. This date is contingent upon Vepco providing adequate responses by the end of August, 1983. Vepco is reviewing the draft questions received to date and responses to some of the questions by August 31, 1983 will be difficult to achieve.

Another application which was filed by Vepco with the NRC on October 8, 1982 (Serial No. 572) is the Part 72 application and Safety Analysis Report for a Dry Storage Cask ISFSI for the Surry Power Station. As of this date we have received one set of questions on the security aspects of this facility. Vepco will be submitting a new security plan for this facility which responds to these questions early in August, 1983. We have been led to believe by the NRC Project Manager that the bulk of the questions are still to be sent.

Vepco is very concerned about the delays in the review of these matters as it could have significant impacts on the operation of our Surry Nuclear Power Station. Present fuel management schedules show that Surry will lose full

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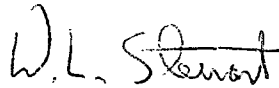
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core discharge capability in late 1984 or early 1985 when Surry Unit 2 shuts down for refueling. Vepco has been pursuing multiple paths (i.e., Transshipment from Surry to North Anna and Dry Cask Storage) to ensure that loss of full core discharge does not occur.

Due in part to the previously mentioned delays, Vepco is presently planning to submit information to the NRC to qualify for Federal Interim Storage of spent fuel under draft regulation 10CFR53. We expect to submit this information in early Fall, 1983.

We would urge that the NRC take steps to expedite these review processes if at all possible so that the continued operation of Surry will not be jeopardized. Also, sections 131(a)(2) and 132 of the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982 state that the Commission shall "take such actions as such official considers necessary to encourage and expedite the effective use of available storage, and necessary additional storage." Vepco is willing to work closely with the NRC to achieve this goal. If you feel that a meeting to discuss this matter in detail is required, we would be pleased to meet with your staff at their convenience.

Very truly yours,

  
W. L. Stewart

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