

Friday, January 4, 2019

RE: U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Public Meeting – Surry Subsequent Relicensing

To Whom It May Concern:

The Hampton Roads Economic Development Alliance represents and partners with our region's localities, businesses and other institutions to promote the growth and expansion of the Hampton Roads economy and create new job opportunities for the people of our communities.

As Interim President & CEO of the Alliance I would like to express our strong support for Dominion Energy's application for an additional 20 years of operation for both of its nuclear units at Surry Power Station.

In order to grow and thrive, Hampton Roads must have secure, reliable, affordable and environmentally sound sources of energy. We are very fortunate to have a facility that meets this description just a few miles away – Surry Power Station. For many years its electric output has helped ensure that the Hampton Roads communities have the energy they need, whenever they need it.

Surry's operating record over the decades has been outstanding. In fact, it is rated as one of the top performers in the U.S. nuclear industry, as measured by both the NRC and organizations within the nuclear energy industry.

And its role in supplying the homes and businesses of Hampton Roads – as well as the many vital defense facilities that form so important a part of our communities – will be even greater in the future. Its importance is magnified by the fact that several large generating facilities powered by coal have been shut down for environmental reasons in the last few years. That makes Surry an even more crucial part of the Hampton Roads energy picture. In fact, the construction of the Skiffes Creek transmission line across the James River will help ensure that the Peninsula – with its critical defense facilities and contractors – will have new, direct access to the power supplied by Surry.

Additionally, we can't overestimate the role the station itself plays in the Hampton Roads economy. It employs hundreds of skilled workers and has an annual payroll of about \$80 million – money that goes directly into the regional economy and supports a wide variety of businesses and services.



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To attract new businesses and industries in this century, Hampton Roads needs more than reliable and affordable energy.

It needs clean energy as well.

Surry will play a tremendous role in making sure the Hampton Roads energy supply fits that description.

First, it's already the largest source of clean energy in the region. It produces zero emissions – including zero carbon emissions. If we are continuing our transition to a lower carbon environment, we must keep Surry and other nuclear facilities operating.

Second, it will support development of generation powered by renewable resources, such as the sun and wind. They will play a huge role in supplying energy to Hampton Roads in the future. But their output is intermittent – they can't operate all the time.

And when they can't produce, other sources of clean power must be available. And for Hampton Roads, the best source of clean energy available on a 24/7 basis is undoubtedly Surry.

So, for all these reasons, the Alliance supports Dominion Energy's application. We urge the Commission to approve it, and we appreciate the opportunity to share our views with you.

Sincerely,

Robert S. Herbert
Interim President & CEO