

VIRGINIA ELECTRIC AND POWER COMPANY
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA 23261

August 21, 1979

Mr. Harold R. Denton, Director
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
Attn: Mr. Darrell G. Eisenhut, Acting Director
Division of Operating Reactors
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D. C. 20555

Serial No. 580/062679
PG/DLB:baw
Docket Nos. 50-338
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License Nos. NPF-4
CPFR-78

Dear Mr. Denton:

This is in response to your letter of June 26, 1979 regarding multiple equipment failures and unnecessary challenges to the reactor trip and the safeguards systems.

A review of station records has been conducted to determine if North Anna Unit 1 has had any events resulting in multiple equipment failures similar to the event described in your letter. No such events have occurred. However, there were a few cases where reactor trips were experienced during the performance of periodic surveillance testing and where revision of the procedures could reduce the possibility of future, similar challenges to the reactor trip and safeguards systems. The procedures that were being utilized during those events have been, or will be revised to include the appropriate precautions.

A general review of North Anna 1 safety instrumentation surveillance procedures has been conducted. All were found to contain statements indicating the importance of avoiding challenges to the protective features by assuring that only one protection channel is in a trip condition at a time.

Management policies and procedures are in strict compliance with the requirements set forth in the Technical Specifications. If equipment failures were to cause both redundant trains of a safety feature to become inoperable, the unit would be shutdown as required by T.S. 3.0.3. Prior to start-up of the unit, management would review and evaluate equipment failures and such equipment would be restored to an operable status as required by Technical Specifications. The purpose of periodic surveillance is to discover these equipment problems before they can occur to prevent such equipment failures from reducing the ability of safety systems to function. When the periodic test program is managed successfully and the tests are performed as scheduled, the chance of single or multiple equipment failures is greatly reduced.

Very truly yours,

C. M. Stallings

C. M. Stallings
Vice President-Power Supply
and Production Operations

cc: Mr. James P. O'Reilly

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