

COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Office of the Governor

Richmond 23219

John W. Dalton
11-1-79

November 5, 1979



Mr. Joseph M. Hendrie
Chairman
United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission
1717 H Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Chairman Hendrie:

POOR ORIGINAL

I am writing to request immediate reconsideration by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) of its decision to delay licensing of Virginia Electric and Power Company's (VEPCO) North Anna II nuclear power unit in Louisa County, Virginia. This delay as a result of your general moratorium on licensing new units will impose an unacceptable economic hardship on energy consumers in Virginia in the absence of any compelling safety consideration.

North Anna II has been ready for licensing since late June, and it is expected that all modifications required by the NRC, including those that resulted from the Three Mile Island analysis, will be completed in January, 1980.

North Anna II is a nearly identical copy of North Anna I, which is undergoing its first refueling after compiling an operating record that has made it one of the most successful nuclear power units in the history of the industry. There have been no significant events in the operation of North Anna I that would reflect adversely on the potential for safe and productive operations at North Anna II.

Given the fact that North Anna II will be operated by the same utility on the same site of North Anna I, it is inconceivable to me that the NRC would delay its licensing in the absence of specific findings of design or operating deficiencies. In my view, it is as unreasonable to delay licensing of North Anna II as it would be to revoke the license of North Anna I or any other similar reactor now operating successfully anywhere else in the Nation.

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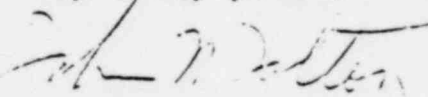
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Mr. Chairman, each month of delay in the utilization of a nuclear power unit adds from \$12 million to \$13 million to the bills of Vepco customers by forcing the utility to buy more expensive replacement fuels, including imported oil. This is an intolerable added burden to place unnecessarily on our citizens at a time when our state and federal governments are being forced to implement expensive and unprecedented heating cost assistance programs to offset fuel price inflation that already has occurred.

Your mission of nuclear safety assurance is a vital one, but, speaking for the Commonwealth of Virginia, I must say to you that we cannot accept the economic consequences of any restrictions on the full utilization of our nuclear energy facilities that are not fully supported by specific findings of deficiencies. For this reason, I urgently request the Commission's reconsideration and rescission of its licensing moratorium as it applies to North Anna II.

With all good wishes, I am

Very truly yours,



John N. Dalton

POOR ORIGINAL

JND/rbg

cc: The Honorable Jimmy Carter
The Honorable Harry F. Byrd, Jr.
The Honorable John W. Warner
The Honorable Paul S. Tribble
The Honorable G. William Whitehurst
The Honorable David E. Satterfield, III
The Honorable Robert W. Daniel, Jr.
The Honorable W. C. Daniel
The Honorable M. Caldwell Butler
The Honorable J. Kenneth Robinson
The Honorable Herbert E. Harris, II
The Honorable William E. Wampler
The Honorable Joseph L. Fisher
The Honorable Preston C. Shannon
The Honorable Junie L. Bradshaw
The Honorable Thomas P. Harwood, Jr.

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