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Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, D.C. 20515

November 8, 1979

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



Dear Mr. Chairman:

It is our understanding the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, in testimony before the Interstate Commerce Subcommittee on Energy and Power earlier this week, indicated it does not now intend to resume licensing of operating reactors. This continued delay in the licensing of new plants will directly affect Virginia Electric and Power Company's North Anna 2, a unit which is now ready for initial fuel loading.

We are extremely concerned about the severe financial impact this announcement will have on the citizens of Virginia, especially if it means this unit cannot begin fuel loading and preliminary operations until next spring or possibly later. North Anna 2, like North Anna 1, meets current NRC design requirements and essentially it is no different from any of the other seventy commercial nuclear units already operating in this country. Vepco informs us they have already committed to comply, and indeed they have implemented additional NRC requirements imposed as a result of the lessons learned at Three Mile Island. The State of Virginia's Emergency Response Plan has just received NRC approval and the operating personnel who will operate Unit 2 are being administered NRC examinations this week in compliance with upgraded licensing requirements imposed since TMI. It therefore seems inconsistent not to proceed now with granting of an operating license for this generating unit.

Construction was essentially completed last summer. Further delaying the in-service data costs Vepco's customers about \$14,000,000 per month, and, if continued, it will also seriously affect the Company's ability to meet projected 1980 summer electrical demands.

We have been further assured by Vepco's senior management that they will implement as appropriate all of the recommendations of the NRC, the Presidential Commission on Three Mile Island, and other NRC study recommendations.

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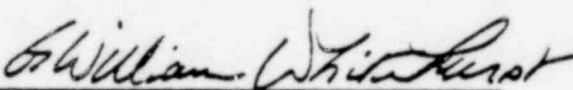
We therefore urge you and the other Commissioners to reconsider your position and to direct the staff to carefully examine the commitments Vepco has made as follow-up to TMI on a review schedule that will permit issuance of an operating license before year end.

We do not suggest that recommendations to further enhance safe operation should be foreclosed by proceeding with issuance of an operating license. It seems logical however that this completed plant, incorporating the most recent engineering design features and improvements, should be permitted to operate. Such action appears not only to be in the best interests of the citizens of the Commonwealth, but for our nation as a whole.

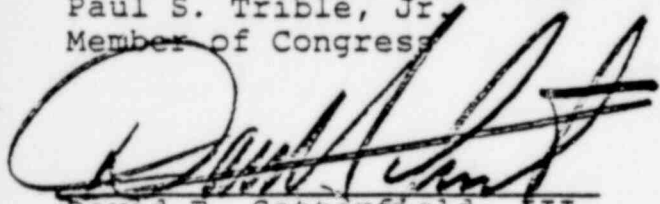
Sincerely,



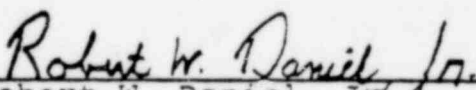
Paul S. Tribble, Jr.
Member of Congress



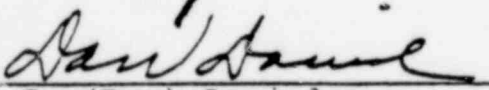
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Member of Congress



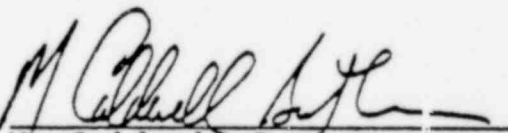
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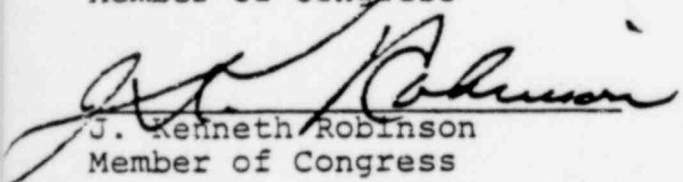
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