

13 November 1979



Chairman Joseph Hendrie
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Sir:

We write this letter as concerned citizens of Northern Virginia whose principal energy source has been placed in jeopardy by the NRC's announced intent to extend the current freeze on the granting of licenses for nuclear powerplants. We reject the NRC position that pending operating licenses such as that for North Anna-2 should be treated any differently than the conditions that you are applying to currently operating plants, specifically, the Surrey and North Anna units in the VEPCO system. This posture by the Commission suggests a response to the politics, rather than to the reason of the situation.

As long as the North Anna-2 plant has been subjected to the scrutiny of the same Three Mile Island "lessons learned" which are applicable to currently operating nuclear powerplants, then this plant should be treated no differently than any other unit in the VEPCO system. The suggestion that NRC would deny the processing of the operating license indicates a posture that violates the charter of the NRC. Moreover, the NRC's mandate to conduct its activities consistent with common defense and national security needs of our nation, strongly argues for expeditious processing of this license as well as others, because of the prospect for providing non-oil generated electricity in the important months ahead. The penalty to be paid directly by VEPCO consumers as a result of your denial to permit the commissioning of North Anna-2 will be severe. The totally unnecessary burning of roughly 40,000 bbls/day of imported oil, which at current (pre-crisis) prices is draining \$26 million per month from the local economy, at a time when preparation for offsetting Iranian source imports is being undertaken as a highest national priority flies in the face of our vital national interests.

While NRC is to be commended for aggressive application of the many important lessons learned at Three Mile Island, succumbing to the political pressure by those that have already been rejected soundly by their peers in both the House and the Senate is unacceptable! We strongly urge your personal reconsideration of this matter. Leadership is required to demonstrate that the capability vested in the Commission is an important trust and must be discharged with the interests of the nation in mind.

Sincerely,

Gayle K. Randal
Gayle K. Randal

Arthur G. Randal III
Arthur G. Randal III

2832 South Buchanan
Arlington, VA 22206

cc: The Honorable John B. Dalton,
Governor of the State of Virginia
The Honorable John W. Warner,
U.S. Senate
The Honorable Harry F. Byrd, U.S. Senate
The Honorable Joseph L. Fisher, Member of Congress

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